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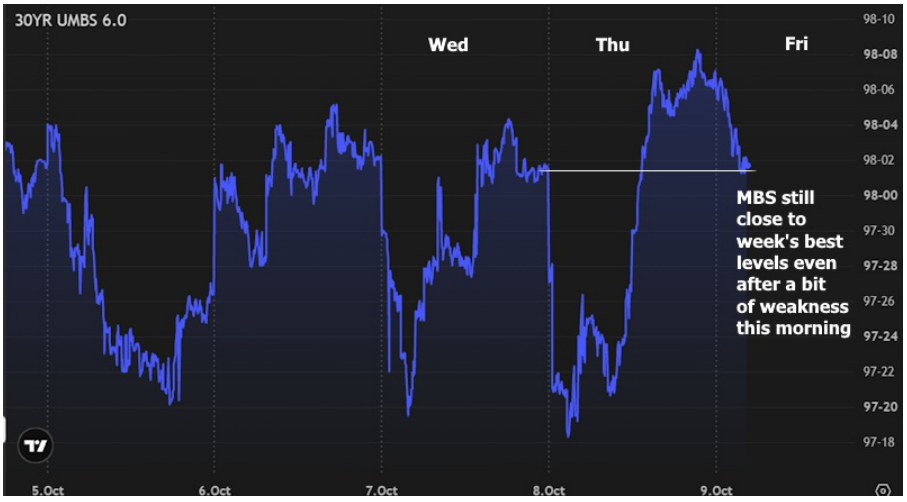
The Day Ahead: Slightly Weaker Start. Keep 3-Day Weekend in Mind

After yesterday's nice comeback, here's how we're thinking about today. Fridays before 3-day weekends:

- frequently see a move to the sidelines among certain investors. Traders who were tactically long bonds over the past 2 days could be booking profit. Translation: some of the strength over the past 2 days could turn to weakness for purely mechanical reasons.
- frequently see less determination to aggressively pursue new trading ideas in the absence of compelling econ data.
- often "don't count" when it comes to forming our view of prevailing short term trends.

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Bonds are starting out slightly weaker, but MBS are right in line with Wednesday's close. Treasuries are even better than Wed's close. It would be a victory to close around these levels today. Any improvement is a bonus. And deterioration can be forgiven, as long as it doesn't get out of hand.



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