

Seriously, I think we all know that nothing JEFF has done in these hallways will rank as his proudest accomplishment. That has to be persuading Cheryl to marry him and the beautiful family they have built together, five kids—Alexis, Austin, Tanner, Ryan, and Dallin—and now grandchildren.

Almost a decade ago, after his first island adventure, JEFF wrote: “I will never see a sunset as peaceful as [the ones] I saw there.”

Well, I am not so sure. I suspect that when JEFF is back home with his lovely family by his side—well, with company like that, I expect the Arizona sunsets will give those Pacific nights a run for their money after all.

So we bid farewell to our colleague. We thank him for his service, and we wish him and his family much happiness in the next chapters they will be writing together.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we have just a little over a week to come to some agreement on how to fund the government past next Friday.

Leader PELOSI and I have given the President two options to keep the government open. Both are noncontroversial. Neither contain any Democratic demand. We just want to keep the government open. So far, President Trump has not accepted either offer. The President appears to be clinging to his demand for billions of dollars for a border wall, and from what we saw in the Oval Office and news reports about his reaction after our meeting, President Trump is willing to throw a temper tantrum and shut down the government unless he gets his way.

I want to be crystal clear. There will be no additional appropriations to pay for the border wall. It is done. The President repeatedly promised that Mexico would pay for his unnecessary and ineffective border wall, in his words, “100 percent.” On Tuesday, he said he would be “proud” to shut down the government unless U.S. taxpayers pay for it. Now, just this morning, the President tweeted that Mexico will pay for the wall through savings from the new NAFTA.

Well, Mr. President, if you say Mexico is going to pay for the wall through

NAFTA—which it certainly will not—then I guess we don’t have to. Let’s fund the government.

Honestly, if the President really believed what he tweeted this morning, that his new NAFTA would pay for the wall, he wouldn’t be threatening to shut down the government unless American taxpayers fund his wall. He can’t have it both ways. The President’s position on the wall is totally contradictory, ill-informed, and frankly irresponsible. It is not a serious proposal. It is a throwaway idea the President used—used in the campaign and still uses—to fire up his base.

A Trump temper tantrum and shutdown threat isn’t going to change any minds in Congress. President Trump has several ways to avoid a shutdown. He should pick one and soon, but if we wind up with a shutdown, it will be entirely the President’s fault. President Trump himself would not dispute that in the Oval Office on Tuesday. He almost bragged that he would shut down the government—what irresponsibility.

I would just like to remind my friend the majority leader that if we arrive at a Trump shutdown, the onus for reopening the government will soon fall in his lap. When Democrats take control of the House in January, Democrats will pass one of our two options to fund the government, and then Leader MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans will be left holding the bag for a Trump shutdown if they don’t pass our bill now.

So there is no way for my Republican friends to avoid the issue. There is no way for Leader MCCONNELL to avoid the issue, fearful of President Trump as they all might be. Either Republicans help deal with the President now or they will be left dealing with a much bigger problem in January.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a brief word on China. I have spent the better part of the last two decades encouraging administrations to be tougher on China, which has risen to challenge the United States economically, not through fair trade and fair competition but by shielding its market from U.S. competition, flouting international trade rules against dumping currency manipulation, relentlessly stealing our intellectual property and know-how. China has not played by the rules. They are the outlaw of trade, and they have cost the United States millions of jobs and probably trillions, if not hundreds of billions, of dollars.

The recent arrest of the CFO of Huawei, a tech giant in China with close ties to its government and military, is a reminder of the predatory and rapacious behavior of Chinese companies. Huawei is charged by U.S. officials with intentionally violating U.S. sanctions with Iran.

Beyond these specific charges, however, Huawei has raised serious concerns among U.S. officials for a poten-

tial role in cyber espionage, given their reported links to China’s state security services, and now news reports have confirmed that the massive cyber attack on the Marriott hotel chain a few weeks ago was conducted by none other than Chinese intelligence.

This administration has been tougher on China than previous administrations. They deserve credit for that, but this administration has also shown an eagerness to quickly bargain away tough enforcement of Chinese abuses for mild and sometimes meaningless concessions so President Trump can get a quick news hit, particularly on a bad day. That is what happened with ZTE. No one wants to see a repeat of that movie.

We had ZTE dead to rights. They were hurting America, and President Trump, at the last minute—still unexplained—let them off the hook. I hope that doesn’t happen again because this administration has set us up for a potential victory for the first time—better than Bush’s administration, better than Obama’s administration—against China rapaciousness.

I am urging the President to be tough on Huawei and direct U.S. officials to prosecute these charges and have the Huawei CFO stand on trial in the United States, as she deserves.

TRIBUTE TO HEIDI HEITKAMP

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, to my dear friend and about my dear friend, the Senator from North Dakota. The task sadly falls to me to begin saying goodbye to Members of our caucus who will not be returning in the 116th Congress. This morning, I would like to begin with the junior Senator from North Dakota.

HEIDI HEITKAMP had a childhood that sounds like it was ripped from the pages of a frontier epic. She grew up as one of seven kids born over 9 years in a house with three bedrooms, in a town with a population south of 100. Do the math. That means that around one-tenth of the town was Heitkamps.

Inside the household, the lack of space meant that HEIDI’s room was also her brother’s room and also the laundry room. According to her sisters, the presence of a laundry machine had almost no effect on her. She read and read, and rarely, if ever, did she participate in the washing or folding of the Heitkamp laundry.

Her siblings didn’t seem to mind, at least not too much. As Julie Heitkamp said about growing up with HEIDI, “She was so good . . . it was annoying.”

It turned out that the bookworm from a small town in North Dakota was destined for great things. When she worked for Senator Kent Conrad, the outstanding Democrat from North Dakota, he realized the same goodness in HEIDI her sisters recognized, and he encouraged her to run for State auditor at the age of 28. She didn’t win that race, but she ran again for State tax commissioner and won and, again, for