

miles to the U.S. border? What fear would I have had to do that?

I went down there. I think the President should go down there. I went to Mexico and El Salvador and Honduras, and I met in the backyard of our Embassy with a bunch of young people who had either tried to get into this country and failed or tried to get into this country and succeeded. It was very clear they are absolutely terrorized by the gang violence down there, by the insistence on the part of gangs that these kids join gangs, and by the complete abject lack of economic opportunity. There is none. That could affect the national security of the United States, and we should have an interest in trying to make it better.

I would put my record on immigration and border security up against any single person in this Chamber because I helped write and pass a bill that spent \$40 billion on border security for the United States. Our dysfunction in the House of Representatives caused us not to pass the bill there. Now, we have reached a level of even more dysfunction because the President is making up what is actually causing the problem at the border and enjoys the political theater of going over to the House of Representatives and having a conversation with people about how we are going to solve a problem he created and

that his administration created and that Republicans and Democrats in this Chamber alike know he created.

Let me close just by saying that we live in a democratic republic—I have said that on the floor—and a democracy will not last very long if the government is separated from the people. We are a self-governing enterprise. In order to do that well, in order to put America's children in the position they deserve to be put in, in order to honor the heritage our parents and grandparents passed on to us, in order to assure America's leadership role in the world, we have to seek the truth as citizens. It is a fundamental responsibility that each of us has.

We don't have to agree with each other about much, but we have to find a way to ascertain the truth and then govern toward that and figure out ways of moving the country forward. With an episode like this, I get more and more worried we are reaching a point where it is going to be hard to pull back from the brink.

When we are living in a time when our President tells us that our allies threaten our national security, we need to ascertain the truth of that statement. When we are told trade wars are easy to win, and we end up paying more for steel than the people we are fighting a trade war with, we need to

figure out what the truth actually is. When somebody runs for office saying they are going to have a beautiful healthcare plan that is going to cover everybody in America at a really low price, we ought to check and see whether that is happening. When somebody tells you—even though it is repeated over and over and over again on one cable TV station in America—that he is going to pay off the debt in 7 years and then comes to Washington and gives us the largest deficit we have seen outside of wartime or recession, we owe it to our children to ascertain the truth of the matter.

We owe it to our children to do that, and we owe it to the world to treat the children on our southern border with some dignity—the dignity any human being would deserve.

I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.