

The way to deal with it is obvious: open up the government so we can resume these functions. In the U.S. Senate, the fastest and best way to open up the government is to have a vote—to have a vote on the bill that is on the Senate calendar that has already received broad bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate.

I want to talk a minute about Homeland Security. The Trump administration's request for this portion of border security funding was \$1.6 billion. That is what is in their budget. You can look at their budget online. They requested \$1.6 billion. I serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Committee provided that request—provided that request for strengthening barriers. We did say you can't use that money to build that sort of new, huge wall the President used to talk about, but we provided \$1.6 billion. That was going to work out fine in the long run.

Then, of course, in December, the President said: Oh, I need this \$5.7 billion for a big wall.

I think all of us who follow these issues closely know that even before President Trump was elected, we had 700 miles of barriers and fencing along certain strategic parts of the border, and we have provided funds to reinforce and strengthen some of those barriers. So this is a totally manufactured issue by the President of the United States in terms of all of a sudden demanding more funds than the President himself in his budget requested.

So we should have a serious conversation on border security and immigration issues, and we can have it now, but what we cannot do is continue to allow the country to be held hostage through this government shutdown. As I said at the beginning of my remarks, it was the President of the United States who said on December 11 of last year, he would be "proud" to shut down the government if he didn't get things his way. Well, that is just not how things work, especially not how things work in an era of divided government. So I appeal to my colleagues, my Senate Republican colleagues to work with us to find a way out. Obviously, the fastest way out is to vote on the bills that already have bipartisan support. We should have the conversation, but what I do find to be a very sad reflection on this body, is if we move forward and have a vote only on the proposal the President of the United States wants and not also a vote on the bill that previously had bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate because that would send an awful message. It would send the message that the majority party has allowed an independent and coequal branch of government to be totally hijacked by the President of the United States, as opposed to doing our job as a separate branch of government under article I.

If we are going to take the position that this Senate, with 53 Republicans

and 47 Democrats, is only going to vote on a proposal from the President of the United States, then we simply have become a vehicle—an agent for the President. That would be a great shame on this body.

If we are going to have a vote on that bill—and I am fine to have a vote on that bill. We should have votes. In the light of day, we should have transparency and accountability, but what would be outrageous is to say: OK. We are only going to vote on the bill the President of the United States wants and not on another measure that has already received broad bipartisan support. That would be a dereliction of duty in the U.S. Senate as a separate and coequal branch of government.

Let's end this shutdown. We have it in our power to vote now. Let's do our job. The President can do what he wants, but let's do our job under the Constitution and let's do it and be held accountable by the American public. Let's not use procedural devices to only allow votes on what the President wants and not votes on bills we voted on before.

I am hoping this Senate will do its job and do its duty and hold that vote to reopen government and not just on the President's proposal but on the other proposals as well. In the meantime, we should continue to have serious conversations about the most effective and cost-effective way to provide border security and how we can deal with other immigration issues, but nobody should send the signal that shutting down the government is a good way to do business. I would hope that neither Republican nor Democratic Senators would want to send a signal to the Executive that they are going to be rewarded for shutting down the government—now 32 days long, a real shame for the country, and something nobody should be proud of. No matter what the President of the United States says, this is nothing for anybody to be proud of.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 268

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to move to proceed to H.R. 268.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 268.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 268, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

(Purpose: Of a perfecting nature.)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up the Shelby amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] for Mr. SHELBY proposes an amendment numbered 5 to H.R. 268.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 6

(Purpose: Of a perfecting nature.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I call up my amendment, No. 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 6.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, it be in order to file cloture on amendment