

to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all duplicate grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any duplicate grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded the duplicative grant.

“(d) COMPLIANCE WITH AUDITING STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall comply with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, published by the General Accountability Office (commonly known as the ‘Yellow Book’), in the conduct of fiscal, compliance, and programmatic audits of States.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 388(a) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 11280(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “section 345 and”; and

(B) by striking “\$140,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013” and inserting “\$127,421,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2020”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1), such sums as may be necessary shall be made available to carry out section 345 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2020.”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2019 through 2020”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.) is amended by striking—

(1) section 299 (34 U.S.C. 11171); and

(2) section 505.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say I yield to my friend, but maybe I had better say it at the end to see how pleasant we are. I yield to the majority leader.

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1115

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I first want to begin by thanking my friend. Today could be our last scheduled colloquy together.

Over the years, we have had many spirited debates on this floor. We have celebrated moments of cooperation,

from tackling the opioid epidemic to fighting human trafficking to leveling tough sanctions on American adversaries. As my friend knows, most of what we do in this Chamber is bipartisan.

A study by Quorum found that the 115th Congress enacted the highest percentage of bipartisan bills of any Congress in the last 20 years. That success could not have happened without a lot of working across the aisle to find common ground.

Now, beyond legislation, I look forward to continuing to work with my friend on our shared passion for a more efficient, effective, and accountable government through events like Congressional Hackathon.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to join the leader. It is important for the public to understand that much goes on in which there is agreement. Much goes on in this House between staff and between Members that is a positive and bipartisan result for the American people and for our country.

Obviously, the public sees mostly, and the reporters cover, television and print, mostly the confrontation because that is what is newsworthy. A headline saying everybody cooperated and got something done is apparently not a very saleable, marketable headline. But I thank the majority leader.

And as the roles shift and I become the majority leader, I continue to intend to work with the majority leader and with the incoming whip on the Republican side to see if we can forge bipartisan agreements on critical issues that clearly the American people want addressed.

I thank my friend, Mr. MCCARTHY, and tell him that I look forward to working with him, as we have in the past, and, hopefully, we can do so constructively on behalf of, not only the House of Representatives, but on behalf of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding, and I thank him for those kind words.

There are other things we also did on this floor. We have also mourned during times of grief, including our colloquy just 1 day after the shooting at the GOP baseball practice.

Those moments of shared humanity reflect the very best that this House has to offer. And, yes, we have had our share of debates—debates over policy, over politics, and how to make the country better. But I have always known my friend to be a man of integrity and a fair and honest broker.

And although his questions were rarely confined to the schedule for the week to come, I have actually grown to enjoy these colloquies. Because no matter the subject, these colloquies represent some of the last true debate that occurs in this Chamber. So while the transcripts of what we say one day will fade, I wish my friend well as he carries forward this rich legacy of de-

bate on the basis of mutual respect in the people's House, and I know he will.

Mr. Speaker, my friend knows I love metrics, so here are a few final stats. On average, our weekly colloquy this year has lasted 42½ minutes. I apologize to the House recordkeepers and to the Members trying to give 1-minute speeches like they are today. The shortest was 8 minutes, and the longest lasted more than an hour.

Mr. Speaker, today will likely be on the shorter end, because our schedule for next week remains fluid and subject to change. Conversations are currently ongoing between the House, Senate, and the White House. In the meantime, Members should be on standby and prepared to return to Washington for votes next week. We will provide advance notice ahead of any expected votes.

As of today, I would estimate first votes for the week to occur at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday. I would encourage all Members to make the necessary arrangements to be here as we complete our work for the 115th Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for that information. I would reiterate what the majority leader has said because I believe this is accurate. There will be no votes before Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. next week—no votes prior to 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday, so that Members are advised that they need to be available. We need to be here Wednesday at 6:30, and we need to be available every day thereafter until we get this government on a solid footing.

Is that accurate, Mr. Leader?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. That is completely accurate. So we will have votes 6:30 Wednesday night, and we will finish our work to make sure our government continues to move forward.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as he points out, these discussions are not just about the schedule for the short term. They are about, however, a schedule as to what policies we are going to address, when we are going to address them, and how we are going to address them.

In that context, Mr. Speaker, the majority leader was, I think, rightfully proud of the fact that the committee had reported out all 12 appropriations bills by the August break, and we had passed seven of those appropriations bills on the floor and sent them to the Senate.

Sadly, however, Mr. Speaker, we are now 12 days before Christmas. There was a meeting at the White House about 48 hours ago, at which time there was a debate or discussion on TV, which the American people saw, and the President of the United States said: “I will shut down the government, absolutely.” And then he said: “I am proud to shut down the government.”

Mr. Speaker, shutting down the government is stupid. Shutting down the government is costly. Shutting down the government creates great uncertainty, not only among those who work

for the Federal Government, but everybody who relies on the daily activities of the Federal Government.

We should not shut down the government. My side, Mr. Speaker, has offered to the President of the United States, and to all of us, two alternatives. One is that we pass a CR for the balance of the year for all bills. We don't like that alternative, but at least it will provide some certainty for the next 8½ months until September 30.

The second alternative, which I think is the much better alternative, and it comports with the leader's justifiable pride with dealing with the appropriation bills on this side—as I understand, there is only one disagreement of major proportion, and that is whether we build a wall. We think that is bad policy. The President thinks it is good policy. We are having an argument about that, and we don't agree. The Republicans control the House and they control the Senate. They could pass it. They haven't passed it. But we don't control that. That is out of our hands.

And our suggestion was we have agreed on five of the bills that have been signed into law. About 76 percent of the government's discretionary funding has already been passed. We have about 25 percent left. That 25 percent is in seven bills. One is the Department of Homeland Security. It is clear that we do not have agreement on the Homeland Security appropriation bills, but on six, it is my understanding, Mr. Leader and Mr. Speaker, that we do have agreement, that the two appropriations committees have worked together, the leaders have worked together, and that we have agreement on those six bills.

So our second alternative, the much preferred alternative is to pass those six bills as they have been agreed to, funding those agencies to which those bills apply between now and September 30, the end of the fiscal year, and do a CR for the balance of the year for Homeland Security, or, alternatively, do a CR on Homeland Security at some date next year. Neither of those alternatives apparently has been pursued by the majority party, Mr. Speaker, and the President, as I just quoted, says: "I am proud to shut down the government."

Mr. Speaker, the leader has said he doesn't want to shut down government. The whip has said he doesn't want to shut down government. The minority leader in the Senate has said he doesn't want to shut down government. We don't want to shut down government.

But we are at an impasse just about one issue, and we suggest we agree with 95 percent. Wouldn't that make sense for the American people, for us to pass the 95 percent on which we have reached agreement after hard work all year? And on that which we can't agree, agree that we can't agree and fight that another day?

But here we are, 12 days before Christmas. And I would ask the majority leader: Do we have a plan? Mr.

Leader, do we have a plan to fund the government on or before the 21st of this month so that we can do what all of us say we want to do, and, that is, keep the government operating on behalf of the American people?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the majority leader.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for the question. I also thank my friend for coming back to where he originally was years ago. Earlier in this Congress, it was not his belief that shutting the government down was bad, and I am thankful that he learned that lesson, because I didn't think it was helpful when he shut the government down over immigration last time. Nobody did. America didn't, and we had to put it back to work.

Now, my friend is correct that we have enacted 75 percent of the discretionary budget into law already. I think all Members should take pride in that, even if one side voted "no" the majority of times. That is because that is better than any Congress has been able to do in nearly 25 years. So, obviously, 25 percent remains.

My friend is correct, there are 12 days left. We did not want to be here with 12 days left. Unfortunately, we had the passing of President Bush.

Now, President Bush—there is a legacy to lead. He found a way to find compromise. My friend on the other side says there is six of the seven we agree with, but I can't compromise on the seventh. He says that the American public wants to make sure it stays open. Yeah, we do, too. The American public also wants to make sure we are safe.

So I think, in the spirit of the season, of the time, we should come to an agreement, knowing that neither side will get everything that they want. One side wants nothing to happen. The other side wants a certain number. I think we can find common ground. I think we could get it all done next week, and it is really my intention and belief that we will have that vote on this floor, that we can find common ground, keep the government open—I am very thankful that he believes in that again, as we do, and that we finish the job the American public asks for. And when we finish that job, America is stronger, safer, and on a footing to make sure we continue to lead for the 21st century.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. Let me observe with respect to the gentleman's comment about we did send five bills, 75 percent of government spending, discretionary spending to the President. The President signed it. But when he says it is the best in 25 years, I will remind him that when I was majority leader in 2007, we passed all 12 bills through this House.

Mr. McCARTHY. Not into law.

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman is correct. We passed all 12 bills. We passed them one by one so that we can consider each one, and they went to the Senate.

Unfortunately, the Senate didn't act in a fashion that I would hope. I will tell the gentleman, it is my intention, as majority leader, to pass all 12 bills.

Mr. McCARTHY. One by one?

Mr. HOYER. Not necessarily one by one. We like his process, perhaps. I hope he likes it as much as he liked it the first time when he got that process, because I may—I have learned from the majority leader's skill and judgment so that we—

Mr. McCARTHY. I like your calendar.

Mr. HOYER. We may pursue that process, and I know he is going to support it because it is his process that we are going to pursue, sort of like his schedule.

□ 1130

Mr. Speaker, we passed all 12 bills. We sent them to the Senate. Unfortunately, we didn't get them all done.

But the fact of the matter is, this is a process called the legislative process, and I just talked at the outset about compromise and working together. We have six of those bills. It so happens we now package everything, and maybe we are going to do that in the future. But the fact of the matter is, we have agreement on six of the seven bills that remain to be signed by the President of the United States.

The way this process works is, you have agreement on six separate bills. These are not the homeland security. That is where we have a disagreement. I understand that. We cannot pass homeland security right now. But we have agreement on six bills.

Why shouldn't the plan be: We have agreement, in a bipartisan fashion; we can fund those six agencies. There will be no drama, and we will send it. Then we can do a CR on the homeland security, and we can argue about the wall.

We can have hearings on the wall. We can have experts come here and say to them: How do we make sure America is secure? Because every Democrat wants to make sure the borders are secure, every Democrat. We want the border secure.

There is a substantive disagreement. By the way, there are Republicans who disagree with the wall, as the gentleman surely knows, that it is not the best way to secure the border.

By the way, I don't know why we need money for it. The Mexicans surely are going to pay for the wall. That is what the President said. The Mexicans were going to pay for the wall. Now he wants \$5 billion to pay for technology we don't think works. So, as a result, we are holding hostage the six bills on which we have agreement.

How frustrated the American people must be when they say: You know, they agree on six-sevenths of the bills, and they won't take yes for an answer.

The response is: "I am proud to shut down the government."

Mr. Leader, I would hope that we could send those six bills on which we have agreement. After hard work in

the Appropriations subcommittees, in the Appropriations Committee, both in the House and the Senate, and in communications between the two bodies, they have reached agreement. We ought to be happy about that. We ought to celebrate that. And we ought to send them to the President. There is no indication he would not sign those bills, as far as I know.

Then, yes, we have a disagreement, and the American people have come here to have us debate that, have hearings on that, see what experts say on that. Frankly, if the wall is what your side wants, then I say to the leader, put a bill on the floor Wednesday night and pass the wall. You haven't done that.

Mr. MCCARTHY. You said Wednesday.

Mr. HOYER. We haven't passed the homeland security bill through this House. It got out of committee; you didn't bring it to the floor. We haven't had a vote on it, so there is no consensus on that part of it.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's pass those six bills. Let's have a plan that will work to preclude shutting down the people's government. I hope we can do that. I hope we can do it, come back Wednesday night, and I hope, Mr. Leader, you have a plan between now and Wednesday night to get us to the place where we can do what we have agreed upon, and agreed not to agree on something that we can't agree on, or pass it and send it to the President.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can do that. That is our responsibility. That is our duty, the duty to have a plan of how to make sure that government continues to operate, and a plan as to how we can have our Members and their families celebrate one of the highest holy days in Christendom.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. I appreciate my friend's comment. I appreciate that he told us that people on his side of the aisle want to have border security.

Then why don't we do the job? Why would we finish a year to settle for mediocrity?

My friend also said that he had passed all the appropriations bills, but they never were enacted into law. The most ever done in the last 25 years is what we did this Congress, because of the Senate and the 60 votes. That is why you had Leader SCHUMER over there at the same time, because Democrats control whether we keep this government open or shut down. They have shown that power before, just as they have done earlier in this Congress.

Now, my friend knows that he wants this country protected. I agree with him 100 percent. I do not challenge his belief on the protection of this country.

I hope my friend also knows that, on that border, they catch, on average, 10 known terrorists a day.

Homeland security is not like any other appropriations. It is not one we

just set aside because we disagree with it. This country has known the damage of setting something aside and not paying attention to the warning signs. I think we are better than that.

Yeah, it might be uncomfortable. We might have to work a little harder. We are going to stay here a little later than we all planned to be, but there were other circumstances that caused that.

I think let's do all seven. Let's get them all done. Let's end on a high note. And it will probably make your job a little easier in the next Congress as well. You won't have to worry about it.

But, in doing so, I think we are both going to have to do something. We are both going to have to look the American public in the eye, and we both made our arguments of what we wanted. But we are going to have to accept that you and I are not going to get 100 percent of what we want.

I will make this pledge to you right now: I am willing to find some common ground. What that means is, the common ground is, we don't leave until we get this done.

Now, your vote has been funding the wall. You voted for that before. I don't know if you have changed your position on that now. But what we are asking for is border security. That means more than just that.

I think there is a window, and I think the American public expects it to get done. I would hate to leave and go home and say, oh, I finished the majority of everything, but that homeland security, that one that keeps our constituents safe, that one that looks around for whatever can happen to us in any part of this country, in so many places, we just did what we did last year.

You know that harms the agency. You know that holds them back. And I can't look at somebody's face that maybe loses a loved one because something happens in the future because I wanted to leave, because I couldn't find compromise.

Mr. Speaker, I will make that promise. I will find common ground, and I will take as long as it does inside any room to make that happen, that we do not leave this Congress without funding all and making sure homeland is not living under the same rules that they had before. When they know it is a changing society, it is also a changing place for those who want to do us harm.

What a CR does is locks them in these continuing resolutions that they can't do something new, when they have found that new technology to protect us throughout the homeland.

So I want to find common ground. I want to protect America. I want to make us safer, and I want to make us stronger. And I make that commitment to you, sir, that we can get it done.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his comments, but what is your plan to do that?

We have been now here in this Congress, this year, for over 330 days, 340 days. You haven't passed any plan on homeland security. You haven't brought it to the floor. It passed out of the committee. You have not brought it to the floor in 340 days.

Here we are, with agreement on six bills, Mr. Leader. We have reached agreement. We have worked hard to get to that agreement.

Now, yes, you have a faction of your caucus that has told you from time to time, "my way or no way," even when you had agreement on six-sevenths.

Mr. Boehner had the same problem, and he decided he was going to leave here because he had the "my way or no way," "my way or the highway," "my way or here's your hat and get out."

Mr. Leader, you have not told us a plan. We have been discussing this for, literally, all year, and we have a very significant, substantive disagreement. And you haven't brought it to the floor to press your view and send it to the Senate.

I don't know why you haven't brought it to the floor. We haven't had any debate on the floor on this issue. We are prepared to debate that bill.

But what we are not prepared to do is hold hostage six-sevenths of the appropriations bills that remain to be done, which we have agreed upon, worked on, and are ready to go. All you tell me is: We are prepared to do that, but we have got to pass all seven bills. If we don't get everything we want, we are not going to do it.

I understand, because you have the President of the United States saying: "I am proud to shut down the government."

What kind of irresponsibility is that?

He wants the wall. I know he wants the wall. We are a democracy, however, not an autocracy, not a dictatorship. We are a democracy, and the wall has not passed this House. There is no agreement on the wall, and we think the wall is a bad strategy.

There are more resources deployed to the South, the southern border, than at any time, I think—I haven't checked this exactly—in my service in the Congress of the United States. So it is not like we have not put a lot of Border Patrol, a lot of technology, a lot of fencing. We have supported substantial security at the border.

Now the President wants more. I get that. But we are holding hostage six-sevenths of the appropriations bills, six out of seven, because the President is going to be proud to shut down the government.

Now, I don't want to be too painful, but we had an election just a few weeks ago, and the President made it very clear he wanted to build that wall. He sent troops down to the border, at tens of millions of dollars' cost. Of course, under the law, they can't deal with law enforcement. And, yes, there were some people that came at the fence, and they were pushed back.

But the fact of the matter is that there is border security. Can we make

it better? Yes. Do we want to make it better? Yes. Will we work with you to do that? Yes. But you are not going to get us to believe something is good that we don't think is good.

You can pass it. The President can sign it. I get that. And we lose. But you haven't brought it to the floor. You don't have a plan to get that done, 330, I guess, 340 days into the year.

So I am, Mr. Speaker, saying, why, when we have agreement—I say six-sevenths. Very frankly, we have agreement on the homeland security bill except for the wall, one item, so, essentially, we have probably 99 percent agreement. But it is my way or the highway, with no plan, as I understand it, to get us from where we are today, where we were 2 weeks ago, and where I am fearful that we will be on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., because we have no plan to get from where we are to where we need to be.

We have offered two plans. You don't like either one of them. One was a CR for the rest of the year, for everything, for the remaining. We don't like that. That is not our plan, but it is one option, and we would support that if you bring that to the floor.

The other option, of course, is to pass the six bills. We will vote for them, all of them. You can put them in a package. Then do a CR on the homeland security, and we will have further discussions about that, and we will see what the democratic process results in.

□ 1145

It hasn't passed the House. We are not for it. We are prepared to debate it. If it passes and the President signs it, it will be law and my friend will do it, but don't hold the rest of government hostage for something on which there is deep disagreement not only by us, but within my friend's own party.

I implore my friend, on Wednesday at 6:30, bring those six bills to the floor. We will vote for them. Hopefully, his folks who worked to get them in place will vote for them. We will pass them, and we will avoid another stupid, as I said, shutdown of the government of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I respect my friend. I even follow my friend on Instagram. And today is Thursday, and I almost feel like he is throwing a Throwback Thursday up, because now he calls a shutdown stupid.

But in this Congress, that is not what he did. In this Congress, he actually whipped to have a shutdown. I did think it was stupid then, and I think going into a shutdown is stupid now. That is why I want to solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, my friend says: Can we make the border better? Yes. He keeps talking about the wall. I just talk about security.

When he described what is happening along the border, it was interesting,

the words he chose. He said there were "some people" down there. I am sure the rest of America has watched what has gone on down there, gone on down there before it even got into Mexico, where they broke down their wall and came across, where they stormed and they threw things at our Border Patrol.

I think the border could be more secure. I know my friend lives in Maryland, but to those of us who live in a border State, maybe we understand this a little differently.

Now, I am the first one who believes in legal immigration. This has nothing to do with it. This is about keeping the country safe. And if two sides cannot sit down to solve a fundamental problem, it is bad for the country.

There is a check and balance, as the gentleman well knows. There is a House; there is a Senate; and then there is an administration, a President, who either signs or vetoes a bill.

The gentleman started the conversation earlier very proud of the fact that he passed all 12 bills. We have done that before, too. The test is really the final end, does it get all the way there?

We are 75 percent there. Twenty-five percent should not stop us, and we should be able to get it done.

But in the gentleman's quest of talking about passing all 12 bills, they didn't become law. Why? Because of the Senate and the 60 votes there.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, is the gentlemen aware we did not shut down government?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, no, I am not. I was here. The gentleman shut down the government.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, not that year.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman voted. He whipped.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is talking about here?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, here, yes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in this session?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, yes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pointing out that when the gentleman says we didn't pass the appropriations bills, when I said we passed all 12 through the House, we did not shut down government. We ultimately got to a resolution of the differences between us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the majority leader, what is his plan to do that?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, my plan to do that is I need 60 votes in the Senate.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, everybody likes to talk about the Senate. What the gentleman has ignored is that I said the bill is in committee and in 340 days has not been brought to this floor. If that is the gentleman's policy, he has not brought it to the floor for consideration.

By the way, when he talks about a broader issue of immigration, we agree with him. He has not brought a com-

prehensive immigration reform bill to the floor, either.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I do not want the gentleman to get more Pinocchios, because that is not true. We have brought two major immigration reform bills to this floor, and not one person on the other side of the aisle voted for either.

My friend knows the hours that we have spent in our office discussing with everybody trying to come to an agreement, but we had two on this floor.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, did they pass those bills?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, no, we did not.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, why not?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, because between those two bills, the gentleman held all of his Members to vote "no," the same way he did with taxes, the same way he did with children's health, the same way he did on many other elements.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we didn't vote for it because we didn't like the bills. But the gentleman is in charge, and he has 240 Members. All he needed was 218.

We didn't like his bill, so we did what we do when we don't like bills: we vote against them. But he has 240 people still on his side of the aisle, and he couldn't pass his bill because so many of his Members didn't like it. That is why his bill didn't pass.

Mr. Speaker, what is the gentleman's plan, however, between now and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday to get us off this dime that we are stuck on and have been stuck on now for almost the entire year, 12 days from Christmas?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, he doesn't want to work with us. I guess the plan is to go back to what the motto of the gentleman had been earlier in this Congress.

The gentleman says it is hard to pass bills here. What is interesting, in that same Quorum study, more bills have passed this House and this Congress than any in modern history. So, yes, we pass bills. We even do it when the gentleman's side tries to hold back.

So when the children were worried about their health insurance and he held back, we did not. When we worried about growing the economy, when he held back, we did not. When he worried about trying to shut the government down, we kept moving forward.

When we wanted to solve the immigration problem, yes, we had two different bills; yes, it takes 218; and, yes, we had more than the 225 votes on either of those bills—you just had 218 on one. But there wasn't one on the other side, even though there were people on the other side of the aisle who would come to me and tell me they wanted to

vote for these bills but their own leadership twisted their arms and said they could not.

Now, yes, were there struggles at times and do we have different factions within the Conference? Yes, we do. But if I were the gentleman, I would watch my words, because I am going to look forward to seeing how well he does with the new faction coming in on his side.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, me, too.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, it will be quite interesting to watch.

I know my struggles. I hope the gentleman doesn't have the same struggles, but I will make this promise to the gentleman: When we agree, I will be there.

We do not have differences because we have parties; we have parties because we have differences.

The gentleman's challenge is he continues to bring up the wall. The question would be, then: Does border security work? Having a wall a part of that security, does it help?

Coming from a State that borders Mexico, we put a wall, which the gentleman had voted for, down in San Diego. You know what the results were? A 92 percent drop in illegals coming across. We built a wall in Tucson, down 90 percent; El Paso, 95 percent.

At one time, El Paso was one of the most dangerous cities in America. Now, today, it is one of the safest, and it has been able to live with that.

Yuma, down 95 percent.

So the question is: What is the plan? The plan and the hope, yes, we will take a bill up. But my hope was that, in the spirit of the season, it wouldn't be the gentleman's way or no way, that he would break from this tradition that Republicans have to pass everything on their own.

Look, I put a bill in that I fully fund the wall at \$25 billion. I know I am not going to get that. Am I going to run away and say, then, I am going to vote for nothing? No, because that is not the way our government works.

You see, we have to have compromise because of the structure. And I don't want to have a plan where I am going to sit up here as majority leader and say, oh, I passed all the bills, but none of them became law.

I want to make law. I want to solve the problem.

Listen, this is not the time to continue to go through and argue. This is the time to solve the problems. Look, the campaign is over.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, what is the solution?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, do you know what the solution is? Sit down with us and come to a compromise, not that it is his way or no way.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask the gentleman a question.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, is the compromise we take the wall or we shut down the government? Is that the compromise?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has already voted for funding of the wall. So my question is: Democrats had to vote for it with 60, the gentleman voted for it on here to fund the wall. Is the gentleman now saying he does not want to fund any of the wall going forward?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, is your answer to the question, yes, the wall, or we shut down government?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, no. I am not one who shuts the government down. We went through that.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the President to whom the gentleman is very close, he says so. The gentleman says so. The President says, and the gentleman heard the quote, he probably gets tired of hearing it, I am sure: I am proud, he says—I am proud, he says, to shut down the government. I will shut down the government. Absolutely, I will shut it down.

That is what the President said just 2 days ago.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thought that was the gentleman's quote from our Congress earlier.

So I don't hold people to what they go through. I realize all the time we had these colloquies before, all the time I studied the history in here, the gentleman always said a shutdown was bad. I quoted back to him numerous times where he had told me that all the way through these. But when the day came in this Congress, he changed his ways. He thought a shutdown was right. I am thankful that he changed. That quote could have been his quote just in this Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, what is he talking about? I voted against bills whose policies I did not agree with and that he said "we will therefore shut down the government," because if we don't agree, he couldn't get the majority votes on his side, and he couldn't get 60 votes in the Senate—which the Republicans were very, very pleased with that when the Senate was controlled by Democrats. They loved having that 60-vote rule because what they said is it requires compromise. It requires coming together, having to get 60 votes. It requires not saying, "Do it our way or you don't do it."

The gentleman has not brought a bill, he has not brought a plan to this floor on how to get out of that. And, Mr. Speaker, the leader has not answered when I said, essentially when he says come together and have compromise, these are his bills. They are not our bills.

We had to compromise. These didn't come out of Democratic subcommittees. They didn't come out of a Democratic committee, didn't come out of a Democratic Senate. These are bills that are his bills that we compromised on.

We are prepared to vote for 99 percent—99 percent—of those seven bills,

99 percent. That is compromising, I think, a pretty far way.

We don't agree with everything in those bills, but he is right, this is a collective body. We have all been elected. We all have one vote, and we have compromised on 99 percent.

He is holding it up. He has no plan other than we take the wall or the President of the United States shuts down government. That is not the compromise that I heard him talking about we ought to have.

Mr. Speaker, if that is the kind of compromise we are going to have between now and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., we are not going to get there. We have compromised on 99 percent. Let's pass it. Let's move on.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, then I am going to yield back.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think we might be hitting our average for how long this colloquy goes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid we are going to almost finish the rest of that hour.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, we should debate ideas; but if the idea is, "What is your plan?" it wasn't my plan that we had to do it alone. If we have to, we have proven we have done that before. He knows it will go on to the Senate.

But if my friend has changed his belief, I don't hold it against him. He might have changed his belief. Or maybe his belief always was that we should have no border security. I don't know.

My friend did acknowledge that there was a great number of people who were trying to get into our country and storming the gates. That is not all the bill. The bill is border security and homeland security.

If the idea is it has to just be a CR or they can't deal with it, do you know what my plan has been all along? It is to work with the gentleman. But I am not hearing that he is even willing to work with us, that I am saying I am willing to.

Compromise. He has already voted for part of border security to be a wall. He doesn't even want to sit down and discuss how much should that be, how much border security should we have.

Is 10 terrorists a day coming across the border okay with the gentleman? Because it is not with me.

Is 2,000 inadmissible people coming across? Is that okay with the gentleman? It is not with me. It takes away from those, like our own relatives, who come here legally.

I was at a naturalization just a few months ago. I sat there inside this service. I watched individuals with such pride raising their hand. And do you know what I told them? George Washington is now their founding father; Abraham Lincoln was their liberator; Martin Luther King spoke of their dreams; and the flag that sits on the Moon is their flag today. And I want them to be safe.

□ 1200

And I don't know what those terrorists have planned when they come across the border, or when those people storm the gates. But I do know we have a responsibility—that I can't get everything I want—a responsibility that we find security, and that we protect our own border security at the same time.

I think there is a window that we can do this. I don't want to do it alone. So my plan was to do it with the gentleman. If he is saying to me he can't, then I am going to have to change my plan, just as we had to do when it came to the children's health insurance. We were not going to let that lapse. Just as it happened when you were going to shut the government down over DACA; we weren't going to let that happen.

We believe the government should stay open. So that is my plan. Will you join with us? Will you make sure that we don't shut down? Will you make sure that we make America stronger and safer for the future?

I don't want to leave work for the gentleman to get done. He is excited about his majority. I want him to be successful. I may smile for the challenge that he is going to have with some people I see coming in, and I will be right over here to debate where we disagree; but when we agree, I will be right there with him, and I will find compromise in every part I can.

I think this is a window to show—even to all those new freshmen, even to those who are leaving and these could be some of their last votes—that we did the very best with the moments that we had for the future of this country.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, what I hear is that the majority leader's plan is that we give up. Ninety-nine percent of the Homeland Security bill, I presume and believe, is directed at securing our borders. We have agreed with 99 percent of it, probably 99.9 percent of it. That is probably not true in dollar value.

But the plan is for us to give up because 99 percent is not good enough for us to agree with. It has got to be 100 percent. If that is the plan, it is not going to work.

The bill has not been brought to this floor, ever, this year. It is worthy of debate as to how we keep our borders most secure. As I have said, many Republicans, including, very frankly, the second ranking member of the Senate on the Republican side, have questions about the wall. He is from Texas. A lot of Texans think the wall doesn't make sense, Republicans and Democrats. Maybe not all, but some. But if the plan is we just give up after agreeing to 99 percent, that is no plan at all.

Unless the gentleman wants to say more, I am going to yield back.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of the season, I have a little gift for the gentleman from Maryland. It

comes from a little shop in my hometown, family-owned. They are excited about what we have been able to do this Congress. It is a little candy that might sweeten his spirit, and he might even be more likely to work with us to solve the problem.

Merry Christmas.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, I have a serious suspicion—I trust the majority leader, but I believe that gift was probably purchased by Judy, his wonderful, beautiful wife.

I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 3749. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes.

FINAL FLOOR REMARKS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be my last time up here. You all are great, and it is a pleasure to talk to you.

Someone once told me that being at the House of Representatives was a different kind of hell. So, when I was sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives 27 years ago, I said that I had survived hell on Earth at the infamous Hanoi Hilton and the Texas House of Representatives, and that I guess I had gone from hell to hell to hell.

While there have been some hellish long nights here—and days—what I will remember is how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to serve America and defend freedom from the Halls of Congress.

I thank all of the constituents of my Third District of Texas, thank all of my colleagues and friends in this room, and thank my country. Serving in the Congress has been one of the highest honors of my life.

We live in the greatest country in the world, and don't forget it. If I leave any legacy behind, I hope that it is one of service above self.

God bless you. God bless America. I salute you and this great Nation.

PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand today in solidarity with my sister, "mi hermana," ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, in calling for what is long overdue: statehood for Puerto Rico.

The residents of Puerto Rico, more than 3 million strong, have been U.S. citizens for more than 100 years, yet they continue to be denied equal rights, including voting representation in this body.

This inequality has consequences. As we saw so vividly in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico has faced injustices that no U.S. State would have to endure.

The Puerto Rican people have demonstrated their preference for statehood repeatedly, and they should be given a chance to cast a straightforward vote whose results will be respected: yes or no on statehood.

My departing colleague from south Florida will be greatly missed in this cause, and in so many others, but I know she will continue the fight as a private citizen. I will fight twice as hard in her absence to ensure equality for Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans once and for all.

I will miss you, friend. "Te voy a extrañar, amiga."

SUPPORTING PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague and good friend DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ's Spanish was perfect, "perfecto."

As she has pointed out, I have long supported the cause of statehood for Puerto Rico, but the lack of action on our part has kept Puerto Rico from having a voice and a vote on this very floor, which is imperative for our great democracy.

For over 100 years, the people of Puerto Rico have been proud American citizens. Plebiscite after plebiscite, Puerto Ricans have voted that they will no longer accept the territory status.

Statehood will promote economic development and jobs on the island so that these American citizens can have a better life and stop losing its people to the mainland after the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Congresswoman JENNIFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN—that is her proper title, that is what it should be—whom I am proud to call my friend, has made statehood for Puerto Rico her priority, urging Republicans and Democrats alike, as you have heard, to act. We must listen and we must do what is right.

As chairman emeritus of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I recognize that statehood will enhance our national security, serving as our Nation's third border in the Caribbean.