When “Caving” is Just A Step Toward the Goal

By Alan Maiman (January 29, 2019)

Last Friday, President Trump agreed to a deal with Congress to reopen the government without receiving any money toward the border wall. Liberals were ecstatic with the likes of Chuck Schumer stating that he hopes that the President has “learned his lesson”. Many conservatives were outraged, assuming the President had “caved”, receiving nothing and making a deal that was already on the table before the government had closed. Viewing the deal as a “cave-in” is missing the big picture. This deal was a necessary step toward the final goal…construction of a border wall or fence across the 600 or so miles in key locations not protected by natural barriers or already protected by a wall/fence.

The President has been running uphill on getting funding for the wall from the very beginning. Previous administrations never implemented old legislation that called for hundreds of miles of fencing. By the time that Trump was elected, and the illegal migrant invasion problem had grown to its current crisis level, there were no legislative solutions on the table. Even when both the House and Senate were controlled by Republicans, there was no way to get this funding approved. Although it is true that the House, under Paul Ryan’s leadership, did nothing to get this done or to support the President, it wouldn’t have mattered even if they had done the right thing. With the arcane rules that exist for standard legislation in the Senate, 60 votes are always required to pass anything. The Republicans were (and still are) nowhere near the necessary 60 votes to get funding passed. The Democrats best (and possibly only) attribute is that they always vote in virtual lockstep, saying the same talking points and voting as a bloc. Except for West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin, who is savvy enough to represent the people of his state, which has become reliably “red” and supports Trump overwhelmingly, there were zero Democrat votes available. Given this reality, there has never been a legislative solution to funding the wall and the President knows this.

The purpose of shutting down the government over the border security issue was not to get legislative approval. It was done to heighten the issue and move it to the forefront of political and policy discussion and to force his knee-jerk Democrat opponents to take wildly leftist positions (which they have done), stating that there is no problem and that they will never provide even one dollar for an

"immoral" wall. Don't believe for a second, the NBC/ABC-type polls which tell us that most Americans oppose the wall. The validity of these polls has been consistently shown to be meaningless over the past 15 years of political polarization. Most Americans outside of the east and west coasts have a good deal of common sense and they know that this problem cuts to the core of protecting the nation. IF you don't have a border, you don't have a country and cannot protect our citizens' safety, jobs, and laws.

After a month, the value of the government closure had reached its natural end, as the media highlighted individual stories of hardship for government workers missing paychecks and chaos at airports, as TSA agents and air traffic controllers started not showing up to work. At that point, Trump took the next logical step. The Democrats had been consistently stating that once the government reopened, they would enter real negotiations about border security. Based upon their consistent and historical positions, we know that they have no plan, whatsoever, to negotiate a wall with the President. Even though a few renegade Democrats are prepared to do so and have said so, they lack the power base to challenge Nancy Pelosi and she will never permit any such compromise. She believes (erroneously) that she holds all the winning cards in this battle and she will walk right into the trap by failing to negotiate over the next three weeks, during the temporary reopening of government.

What happens after February 15th? The lack of negotiations and the obvious obstruction by the Democrats will confirm what Trump has been saying since his campaign for President back in 2016. The date will come and go with no movement toward a deal. At that point, Trump will have regained the high ground, by being willing to take the Democrats at their word, with the results of nothing happening and no serious plan for border security being offered by Pelosi & company. The President will then be able to address the nation, once again outline the serious and imminent problem that we face at the border and be able to say with all candor that he tried things the Democrat way, with nothing done to protect the country. Trump will then declare a national emergency and with the powers vested in him as Commander in Chief, will transfer the necessary $5.7 billion from other military accounts already funded to begin construction of the wall. The Democrats will scream "Dictator…Impeachment…the end of democracy!!" They will find a friendly circuit court judge, likely in California, Oregon, or Hawaii, to have a "stay" put on the President's action to prevent wall construction from moving forward. While the administration will then take all

necessary legal steps to appeal the liberal decision, ultimately going to the Supreme Court for the final call, the wall construction does not have to stop. Most observers, including many Republicans, believe that Trump will have to cease and be tied up in court fights for years. Those people underestimate Trump, as they always have done. Let's look at American history to find out how a strong leader with true conviction to support the country would likely act. In 1832, President Andrew Jackson responded to Supreme Court Justice John Marshall (who was blocking Georgia's takeover of Indian tribal land to be part of the state), "John Marshall has made his decision…now let him enforce it." History often repeats itself and let a 9th Circuit Judge go down to the border and stop the US military from building the wall after the President declares the emergency. Good luck with that.