

U.S. Watching While 2 Allies Clash in Syria

Turks' Attack on Kurds Upsets ISIS Fight

By MARK LANDLER
and CARLOTTA GALL

WASHINGTON — When President Trump met with Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, at the United Nations last September, he embraced him as a friend and declared, "We're as close as we've ever been." Five months later, Turkey is waging an all-out assault against Syrian Kurds, America's closest ally in the war against the Islamic State.

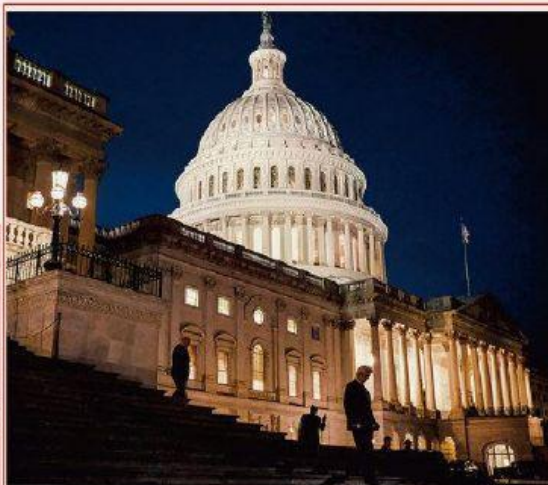
The Turkish offensive, carried out over the protests of the United States but with the apparent assent of Russia, marks a perilous new phase in relations between two NATO allies — bringing their interests into direct conflict on the battlefield. It lays bare how much leverage the United States has lost in Syria, where its single-minded focus has been on vanquishing Islamist militants.

As Turkish troops advanced Monday on the Kurdish town of Afrin, in northwest Syria, the White House warned Turkey not to take its eye off the campaign against the Islamic State. But it stopped short of rebuking Turkey, and acknowledged its security concerns about the Kurds, whom Turkey considers terrorists and a threat to its territorial sovereignty.

The inherent conflict of the United States using the Kurds as its on-the-ground partner in fighting the Islamic State could be overlooked as long as that group remained a threat. But with the militants now in retreat, the White House is grappling for a way to maintain relations with the Kurdish fighters without further alienating the Turks.

The Trump administration's response has been to help the Kurds build a border security force in northeast Syria, ostensibly in guard against the resurgence of the Islamic State. But that has only antagonized the Turks, who view it as a staging ground for a future insurgency against their homeland.

"The U.S. has tried to walk a very fine line in Syria," said Ali Soufan, a former F.B.I. counterterrorism agent who is now chair-



GAURELIA DIMON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



House members leaving the Capitol on Monday, top. Senator Mitch McConnell, right, promised Senator Chuck Schumer, left, and fellow Democrats that he would allow an immigration vote.

Tax-Law Bonuses Veil a Bonanza for Companies

By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — There are good ways to start measuring how much the Trump tax cuts might be helping American workers. Tracking the bonus announcements flowing from corporations is not one of them.

Those announcements, which

\$1,000 bonuses for Bank of America employees, are both rife with money and smart marketing. President Trump and top Republican lawmakers have praised many of the companies that are disclosing tax-cut-fueled bonuses and wage hikes.

For the most part, though, they are not indicative of the windfalls that corporations are reaping from

years to come.

Companies are acknowledging this in their fourth-quarter earnings reports and other financial disclosures, which earmark just a sliver of their future tax savings for direct and indirect investments in workers.

Bank of America's bonuses will cost the bank \$145 million in 2018, or about 5 percent of the nearly

SHUTDOWN ENDS, SETTING UP CLASH OVER 'DREAMERS'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Hope for Bargain in a Swift Surrender

By GARET HULSE

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats blinked. But the saving grace for them may be that they did it quickly.

"Should we have ever shut down the government?" asked Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, who played a leading role in finding a way out for Democrats. "Absolutely not."

Over the weekend it became clear that using the shutdown to insist on protections for hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants was a serious miscalculation. By abandoning the strategy on its third day, Democrats believe they limited whatever damage there may be and gave the public time to forget about the disruption before the crucial November election.

They also won a commitment from Senator Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican and majority leader, to allow debate on a wide-ranging, bipartisan measure that could achieve their goal of protecting hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants.

But by supporting the government's reopening, they provoked a surge of outrage from the party's left as progressive activists and lawmakers assailed the deal as a capitulation based on a mere promise by Mr. McConnell, a longtime foe known for his obstruction of the Democratic agenda.

Immigration activists were furious that Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader, and his fellow Democrats had given away the best leverage they had to ensure that the young immigrants were protected.

"It's morally reprehensible and it's political malpractice," said Ezra Levin, the co-executive director of Indivisible, a liberal group.

Leader McConnell's track record of keeping his word

Immigration Issues Unresolved Under Senate Accord

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
and THOMAS KAPLAN

WASHINGTON — Congress brought an end to a three-day government shutdown on Monday as Senate Democrats buckled under pressure to adopt a short-term spending bill to fund government operations without first addressing the fate of young undocumented immigrants.

The House quickly approved the measure — which will fund the government through Feb. 8 and extend funding for the popular Children's Health Insurance Program for six years — and President Trump signed it on Monday night.

The agreement also revealed fissures among Democrats, with about one-third of the party's members in the Senate and a majority in the House voting against it.

The passage of the measure ended an ugly, if short-lived, impasse that threatened to give a black eye to both major political parties. The deal, reached after a bipartisan group of senators pushed their leaders to come to terms, enables hundreds of thousands of federal employees who had been facing furloughs to go back to work.

But a key part of the deal, a pledge by Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, to allow an immigration vote in the coming weeks, sets the stage for a battle over the so-called Dreamers, young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate are offering drastically different visions of how to resolve their fate. But those on both sides of the debate, as well as advocates for immigrants' rights, are unlikely to get involved for a dispute to be settled.

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