

WORLD

Senate set to reject Trump's wall move

Four Republican senators to oppose president's emergency declaration

By **SCOTT REEVES** in New York
scottreeves@chinadailyusa.com

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged on Monday that opponents of US President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency along the US-Mexico border have enough votes in the Republican-led Senate to prevail on a resolution aimed at blocking the move.

McConnell, who fell in line behind Trump despite his own misgivings about the declaration, said Trump will veto the resolution but Congress will likely sustain its stance. McConnell's remarks came after fellow Kentucky Senator Rand Paul became the latest GOP lawmaker to say he won't back the White House on the emergency declaration.

"I think what is clear in the Senate is there will be enough votes to pass the resolution of disapproval, which will then be vetoed by the president and then, in all likelihood, the veto will be upheld in the House," McConnell told reporters.

The House of Representatives, which is controlled by Democrats, passed the so-called resolution of disapproval and sent it to the Senate, which is expected to vote before lawmakers leave on March 15 for a weeklong recess.

Senate Republicans have a 53-47 advantage. But four of them have now announced they will vote with Democrats to block Trump, who is seeking to bypass Congress to unlock funds for construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border that he insists will reduce illegal

immigration and drug trafficking.

"I can't vote to give extraconstitutional powers to the president," Paul said on Saturday at Western Kentucky University.

In a speech largely praising Trump, Rand said Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the Mexican border is a dangerous precedent.

"I can't vote to give the president the power to spend money that hasn't been appropriated by Congress. We may want more money for border security, but Congress didn't authorize it. If we take away those checks and balances, it's a dangerous thing."

The majority needed

Besides him, other Republican senators who have announced they will defy Trump on the issue are Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Thom Tillis of North Carolina.

With those four, and assuming that all 47 Democrats and their independent allies go against Trump, that would give opponents 51 votes — just past the majority needed.

If the four Republicans don't change their announced intention, the resolution will be sent to Trump, who has said he would veto it.

Several other Republicans, while stopping short of announcing they would vote against Trump, have expressed deep concerns about his move, arguing it is a blatant attempt to expand executive authority.

Last month, Trump signed a bill to keep the government open that also earmarked \$1.38 billion to build a wall on portions of the bor-

der with Mexico. Trump declared a national emergency to tap billions of dollars in federal money to extend the wall.

Democrats and some Republicans argue that Trump's action is unlawful and, in any case, there is no emergency along the southern border.

After Trump's veto of the resolution, his declaration of an emergency to secure funding will be litigated in court. Trump has said he expects to lose at the appellate level, but some legal observers believe he will win in the US Supreme Court.

Writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, Peter J. Wallison, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, former general counsel for the Treasury Department and former White House counsel for Ronald Reagan, said presidents have declared 57 emergencies, including 31 still in effect, since Congress enacted the National Emergency Act in 1976.

"Now we hear congressional complaints that Mr. Trump has somehow managed to overstep his unrestricted authority. Even though they raised no similar objection when (president) Bill Clinton declared a national emergency to prohibit transactions with Sudan (1997) or when (president) George W. Bush used one to impose economic sanctions on Zimbabwe (2003), many in Congress claim to be sure that what is happening on the southern border is not an emergency," Wallison said in his opinion piece.

The difference, Wallison said, is the earlier cases "did not have partisan political implications."

AP and AFP contributed to this story.

Northeast US digs out after storm



A man clears snow from a car during a winter storm in Fort Lee, New Jersey, on Monday. The winter storm dumped more than 2.5 centimeters of snow on parts of the United States' northeastern region overnight, prompting school closures, power outages and a messy morning commute. MIKE SEGAR / REUTERS

Briefly

FRANCE Second HIV-positive man in remission

A second person is in sustained remission from HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS, after ceasing treatment and is likely cured, researchers were set to announce on Tuesday. Ten years after the first confirmed case of an HIV-infected person being rid of the deadly disease, a man known only as the "London Patient" has shown no sign of the virus for nearly 19 months, they reported in the journal *Nature*. Both patients had received bone marrow transplants to treat blood cancers, receiving stem cells from donors with a rare genetic mutation that prevents HIV from taking hold. "By achieving remission in a second patient using a similar approach, we have shown that the Berlin Patient was not an anomaly," said lead author Ravindra Gupta, referring to the first known functional cure.

CANADA Another minister quits in fresh blow to Trudeau

In a serious blow to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, a second member of his Cabinet resigned on Monday, saying she had lost confidence in how the government had dealt with an escalating political scandal. The departure of recently appointed Treasury Board President Jane Philpott, who was in overall charge of government spending, deprives Trudeau of another powerful female minister just months ahead of an election that polls show he could lose. Philpott expressed unhappiness about the government's response to allegations that officials inappropriately pressured former Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould last year to help major construction company SNC-Lavalin Group Inc avoid a corruption trial.

UNITED STATES Anonymous winner claims \$1.5b jackpot

The mystery surrounding the \$1.5 billion Mega Millions jackpot from October is partly over as lottery officials announced on Monday that a South Carolina resident had stepped forward to claim the prize but elected to remain anonymous. A lottery commission statement said the person submitting the claim for what was the second-largest lottery in US history has chosen the cash option, a one-time payment of nearly \$878 million. That's the largest jackpot payout to a single winner in US history, it said. The winning ticket was sold between Oct 20 and Oct 23 at a convenience store in Simpsonville, a suburb of the South Carolina city of Greenville. The winner had until April 19 to claim the prize.

AFP—XINHUA—AP

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