

Donald Trump threatens to call national emergency as shutdown continues



Washington, January 7 (RHC)-- In the United States, the partial government shutdown is now in its third week as the impasse over President Donald Trump's demand for \$5 billion in border wall funding showed no signs of abating over the weekend.

On Sunday, Trump threatened to call a national emergency if no agreement is made. Democratic lawmakers swiftly condemned the idea, calling into question the legality of the move. Chair of the House Intelligence Committee Adam Schiff said: "If Harry Truman couldn't nationalize the steel industry during wartime, this president doesn't have the power to declare an emergency and build a multibillion-dollar wall on the border."

Over the weekend, Trump said he'd push for the construction of a steel barrier instead of concrete, presenting the idea as a compromise for Democrats. Trump also repeated the idea that Mexico would pay for the wall through the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade deal, which would create billions in revenue for the United States. The USMCA has yet to be ratified by Congress.

Federal agencies have been ordered to suspend planned pay raises for top administration officials amid

the ongoing shutdown. The raises had been set to go into effect on Sunday, after a long-standing pay freeze for senior officials lapsed. Eight hundred thousand federal workers have either been furloughed or have been working without pay since the government shutdown started. The 380,000 furloughed workers will not receive back pay.

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