

## AFD 255 Government Shutdown Links and Notes

- Longest shutdown ever

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jan/12/donald-trump-government-shutdown-border-wall-democrats>

Republicans who control the Senate will not pass legislation to reopen parts of government advanced by Democrats in the House, knowing Trump will not sign it, but feel relatively sheltered from blame thanks to the president's intransigence. Majority leader Mitch McConnell has maintained a studious if increasingly controversial silence. Some moderate Republicans have seemed to waver. Trump has not. But as he [remains in the White House](#), after a short visit to the border this week, the pressure is rising: not only from the shutdown but also from continued [revelations in the special counsel's Russia inquiry](#) and as House committees prepare to investigate his actions. [According to S&P Global Ratings](#), meanwhile, the shutdown has cost the US economy \$3.6bn, a toll that will exceed Trump's funding demand in two weeks' time.

- Why is coverage focusing so much on prison guards and suggesting prisoners shouldn't eat during the shutdown?

<https://www.vox.com/2019/1/7/18172074/prison-inmates-steak-holidays-federal-shutdown>

"The framing of this article is so irresponsible and misleading," Chris Kemmitt, senior counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, [tweeted](#). "One of the many ways that incarcerated people suffer is that they are subjected to bad, unhealthy prison food. They do not 'eat like a boss.'"

As Kemmitt indicated, the meals are rare treats for the holidays, and do little to mitigate the suffering that prison otherwise entails. Federal prison inmates still are without their most basic freedoms and dignity, spending years and even decades in prison, sometimes for nonviolent offenses. (Unlike state prisons that make up the great majority of the US prison population and [house mostly violent offenders](#), nearly half of federal prison inmates [were convicted of drug offenses](#).)

Treating prisoners humanely — including an occasional treat at the holidays — isn't just the right thing to do, but it can be smart policy too: In other countries, the more compassionate approach is [credited](#) for reducing the risk of someone reoffending once he's released from prison

- TSA vs. Air Traffic Controllers

<https://twitter.com/SenSanders/status/1083823361174704128?s=19>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/10/us/politics/shutdown-faa.html>

- Food inspectors

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/amp/show/is-the-government-shutdown-making-american-food-unsafe>

Sarah Sorscher, deputy director of regulatory affairs at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group: And even under the best of circumstances, FDA really struggles to keep up with their workload. They regulate 80 percent of our food supply, and they have very few resources to do that work.

And one of the things that they have been doing, at least before the shutdown, was working to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act and really improve the rules on our food system. And, unfortunately, a lot of that planning work to make things better for consumers is stalled because of the shutdown as well.

We don't think that consumers should change any of their practices with respect to food. You shouldn't be switching the foods you eat. There's no reason to think that your foods are less safe under the shutdown.

But, as the shutdown drags on, it could have an impact on food safety, and we need to make sure that it ends swiftly

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/09/health/shutdown-fda-food-inspections.html>

[From APHL's facebook post linking the NYT article] In addition to FDA surveillance being negatively impacted by the shutdown, state data provided to FDA may not be reviewed as quickly and acted upon. For example, state laboratories -- our members -- provide critical food and feed testing surveillance data that is reviewed by FDA (and USDA) and subsequently used, in some cases, to issue product import alerts and recalls. That means those alerts and recalls might be delayed, and those delays could cause people to get sick

- National parks

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/11/us/joshua-trees-cut-down.html> (WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK IS WRONG WITH PEOPLE)

- IRS workers dragooned back into work

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jan/11/america-government-shutdown-trump-federal-workers>

Fearing a true backlash, Trump gave a special – and legally dubious – order for the Internal Revenue Service to continue processing tax refunds, meaning IRS workers are among those required to report for work without pay. But the potential for delays or processing disasters grows as staff resources and morale are stretched.

- Financial precarity for federal employees

An estimated 800,000 federal workers have missed at least one and in many cases two paychecks, creating an alarming number of personal crises in the form of missed rent, car or mortgage payments; spoiled credit ratings; lapsed insurance policies; healthcare and childcare conflicts; and in some cases food emergencies.

Affected households are mostly on the lower end of the middle-class spectrum, with average take-home pay of about \$500 per employee, according to the largest labor union of federal employees. The pinch is keenly felt by African Americans, who fill the ranks of federal employees at [proportions greater](#) than their share of the overall population

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/01/09/us/government-shutdown-state-by-state.html>

Idaho has 88 federal employees per 10,000 workers

Montana has 157, perhaps why Sen. Tester is speaking out so vehemently?

<http://www.mtpr.org/post/montana-senators-sound-government-shutdown>