

## The Politics of Inertia

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Congress's failure to establish, last week, any semblance of budgetary responsibility led to one of those "government shutdowns" that the press likes to yammer about so breathlessly.

Then, early this week, Senate holdouts caved, allowing a short-term fix to bring the federal government fully back to life, like the monster in Dr. Frankenstein's lab given a defibrillator jolt.

Usually these government shutdowns are caused by Republicans not playing along — Obamacare being the sticking point most recently — but this time the



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desperate negotiators were Sen. Chuck Schumer (D -NY) and his Democrat gang, whose "heroic" stance was all about immigration reform and "the Dreamers."

After they folded, and the Monster was bequeathed new life, CNN's Brooke Baldwin asked former Democratic National Committee chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz what her party had gained from its temporary obstructionism.

Her answer? "Potential for momentum."

That had to be one of the more bizarrely drawn happy faces over complete and utter failure that we have witnessed since . . . well, the last one.

Even Ms. Baldwin was incredulous.\*

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So why its current pathetic fortune? Because the Democrats have rested so long upon their "momentum."

Inertia can sure have its downside.

On the "bright side," Democrats will have occasion to revisit this, for no real budget has been established. All Congress even tries to do these days is provide temporary fix after temporary fix.

Call it potential for catastrophe.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

*\* The CNN anchor may have been nonplussed by the specter of entropy in the odd Newtonian metaphor.*