



WJLA TV/DT WASHINGTON, DC

## Coronavirus forces Congress into busy lame duck session

Scott Thuman

November 30, 2020

As cases of coronavirus continue to escalate, so do the financial needs across the country.

Government funding runs out Dec. 11. The House of Representatives comes back Wednesday and is only in session until the 10th. Both chambers are still searching for a deal to likely include COVID relief funds for state and local governments who say they're struggling to pay the bills.

"I think it's a huge failure on the part of the Congress and I'm disappointed by it," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Missouri.

***The president was prepared to sign almost any size bill. I think they didn't want to give him that bill before the election and now we can't seem to figure out how to give it to him after the election," Blunt continued.***

But President Donald Trump is being blamed for another holdup — this one on the National Defense Authorization Act which has passed every year for almost six decades. This time, it is poised to include changing the titles of some military bases named after Confederate figures, which was a sticking point for Trump when pressed him about it in June.

"We won World War I. We won World War II. We've done a lot of winning from these bases," Trump said. "I guess there are about 11 of them they're talking about changing the names, and I like winning and like continuing to win."

"I have a feeling that President Trump's resistance to changing the names to some of these military bases was really a pre-election gambit to strengthen, you know, some of his voting base," Chris Edwards, Director of Tax Policy studies at Cato Institute said. "But I've got a feeling he's gonna drop that now."

Edwards points out that neither side is in the power position they held just a month ago, which could actually help.

***You know, President Trump is on his way out. He may still battle over money for a border wall, but he hasn't really talked about it that much in recent weeks," Edwards continued.***

***"House Democrats, because they lost seats this time, they're not overly confident either in their bargaining position."***

It's not an unusual spot for Congress to work until the last minute to get a deal, but with so many unique factors involved, there is always a chance of just passing a short term, continuing resolution and kick the can into next year.