

into the United States by plane and are apprehended at airports. He wildly inflates the amount of crime committed by undocumented immigrants and just as wildly overstates the effect a border wall might have on the country's opioid crisis. He did this again on Tuesday night, even though he wasn't speaking off the cuff, in a revved-up style, at one of his rallies. He read prepared remarks, and still there was fiction aplenty in them. # Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, who were given time immediately following Trump to present a rebuttal, clearly expected and were ready for that. In ticking off reasons that an expensive and expansive border wall wasn't needed, Pelosi kept saying, " the fact is, " " the fact is. " It was a mantra meant to humiliate Trump, which is a sport that she is developing an ever greater taste for. # When it comes to the border and the wall, Trump's willful estrangement from reality is so profound that network executives and newspaper editors spent part of Tuesday in strategy sessions about how to respond to his inevitable barrage of falsehoods. Should there be a crawl of words on the bottom of the television screen to correct him in real time? Could fact checkers work speedily enough to post rebuttals online within minutes of his misrepresentations, before they took root? This is where we find ourselves. Other presidents have been untrustworthy, and others have had to be called out on it. But not like this. This is surreal. # It's a function of, more than anything, his ego, his vanity, to which the television networks, furloughed federal workers -- all Americans -- are hostage. He's not