Rand Paul came prepared.
On Feb. 8, the Republican senator from Kentucky held the floor, delaying a vote on a budget deal. He put on display a parade of charts — 10 in all — to demonstrate what he views as wasteful spending in Congress. There were charts on a taxpayer-funded video game on climate change and the streetcar that runs along H Street, among other supposed boondoggles.

“Everybody likes to take a selfie, right? If you don’t do them, your kids will do them, your grandkids will do them,” Paul said from the floor. “I really would like to watch you going around the neighborhood knocking on doors asking for money to study whether selfies make you happy.”

In 2012, researchers at the University of California at Irvine were awarded $500,000 from the National Science Foundation to study multitasking among millennials and how they interacted with technology. The grant produced several papers, one of which found that college students, indeed, made themselves happier when taking selfies. One participant in the study explained the impact of the selfie: “Instead of going routinely and mechanically during the day, I stop and look around for something that makes me smile. I didn’t consciously do that before.”

— Jonathan Miller

Financial issues like a bill dealing with changes to Dodd-Frank seemed to be foremost in the minds of Senate leaders as they met with reporters following their weekly party luncheons on March 6.

— Jonathan Miller and Amelia Frappolli