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Among the options being considered is tying a currency measure to a trio of free-trade agreements that lawmakers are expected to move this year.

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Sen. Richard Shelby (R., Ala.), also on the trip, blamed a weak U.S. bargaining position with China on Democrats. "Unfortunately, we have little leverage in negotiating with China on this issue because the Democrats refuse to get serious about deficit reduction in our own county," Mr. Shelby said.

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Shelby??

Mr. Schumer said Chinese officials insisted they had inflation under control. "I do not agree that they have inflation in hand; the government is just pushing out money and I don't think it's that well fine-tuned," he said.

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