

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
BILL

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is expected to vote on the President's \$87 billion supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq.

This \$87 billion is on top of the \$79 billion we approved last spring.

This is not an easy vote, and I appreciate hearing from my constituents on this issue.

I have no objection to spending every dime necessary to make sure our troops are safe and well-supplied with everything they need to do their jobs, but the \$18.6 billion in the bill for civilian reconstruction is simply too big of a handout.

Iraq has vast oil reserves, and we should lend the money to Iraq. The President has refused to separate the military portion of the bill from the reconstruction money.

I will offer an amendment to set aside enough money to pay a \$1,500 bonus to every serviceman and woman who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Another amendment would require the use of American steel to be used in the rebuilding of Iraqi infrastructure, helping to keep jobs here in America.

Our people at home are hurting for jobs for health care, for quality education, prescription drug coverage. I do not believe we can ask them to continue to sacrifice even more to assume an enormous additional debt for Iraq's civilian reconstruction. That is why I intend to vote against the supplemental appropriation bill.

□ 1015

QUERIA'S TRUE COLORS

(Mr. PITT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITT. Mr. Speaker, three Americans lost their lives this week in Gaza City. Several Palestinians died as well. They were part of a team being escorted by Palestinian security forces to bring relief to the Palestinian people.

The Middle East peace process sometimes looks like it will never succeed. But as we mourn the death of these Americans, we should keep a wary eye on what Arafat's new prime minister said in response to a question last week.

Asked whether he would support the road map and confront and shut down the terrorists, he responded, "I will not listen to the Americans. I will listen to our national rights. We will not confront; we will not go for a civil war. It is not in our interest. It is not in the interests of our people and it is not in the interests of the peace process."

He is right about a civil war. That is not what we want. But to say that he is willing to stand up to the people in

his ranks who deliberately target and kill innocent people is ridiculous. Too many innocent people are dying, Israelis and Palestinians, to avoid direct confrontation with the forces that are killing those people.

IRAQ SPENDING DONE RIGHT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was wrong to give this administration a blank check to wage unilateral war, and it is wrong to give them a blank check to rebuild Iraq. Total spending in Iraq is now approaching \$200 billion of borrowed money, with no end in sight. We need to spend less, spend smarter and put someone in charge who knows what they are doing.

None of this controversy should prevent our providing our troops with the support they deserve. They will ultimately get flak jacket liners, protective vehicles, and for their basic needs like safe drinking water. It is just sad that it is taking so long. It is not the time to approve this reconstruction package, 10 times the size of the Marshall Plan even after being adjusted for inflation (on a per capita basis).

It is not being administered by the right people. I will offer an amendment to shift it to the State Department and USAID. Our troops, the Iraqi people, and the American public deserve this to be done right.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
FLORIDA MARLINS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Florida Marlins on a wonderful victory as the National League champions for the 2003 season.

The Florida Marlins was a team that few expected to reach the playoffs, and their victory last night proves that you can win with hard work and nothing is out of reach. Well, perhaps for the Cubbies a ball in left field may be out of reach. But for fellow Miamians and the faithful Marlins fans, winning the National League title comes as little surprise for a team that is known for incredible come-from-behind wins and dramatic finishes such as the 1997 World Series.

Congratulations are in order for the Chicago Cubs for a great season that wound up just short of their hope to reach the World Series since 1945.

Last night's victory was both thrilling and breathtaking. As our Marlins head to the World Series, I wish them the best of luck, and I know that they will certainly prevail as the 2003 World Series champions.

Felicidades a los Marlins.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS
MONTH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Unfortunately, domestic violence continues to be a major threat facing women of all ages. The most conservative estimate indicated that each year 2 to 4 million women are battered or beaten, and nearly 200,000 of these cases are serious enough to require hospitalization or emergency room use.

While there are many support groups and organizations dedicated to helping people of domestic violence, there are still those who would seek to undercut these services.

Recently, a lawsuit was filed by the National Coalition of Free Men who claimed that 10 shelters in Southern California provided services to abused and battered women and were engaging in unlawful sex discrimination because they did not accept men at their shelters. The California Women's Law Center and the law firm of O'Melveny & Meyers represented a majority of these shelters, pro bono, and successfully argued that this lawsuit had no merit.

While it is important to provide services for all abused and battered persons, it is equally important that these services not be denied to those who need it the most, women and children who are the most vulnerable to these attacks.

COMMENDING THE GEORGIA
BOARD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the mental health community of southeast Georgia celebrated a victory.

After the outgoing Human Resources commissioner proposed the closure of Georgia Regional Hospital in Savannah last month, the Georgia Board of Resources voted yesterday to keep this important hospital open.

Last month, I wrote the Governor with my concerns over the closure of Georgia Regional. I was deeply concerned that the decision to close the facility was made by only looking at the direct cost savings and did not include the services that this facility provides to southeast Georgia.

I was concerned about the additional costs that the region would incur due to the closure, as well as the difficulties that people with psychiatric and developmental disabilities and their families would endure.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Georgia Board of Human Resources for agreeing to keep this necessary facility open in Savannah, Georgia.