

Iraq Study Group but puts teeth to the phrase of 'supporting our troops.'"

Madam Speaker, the President needs to listen. He needs to listen to these retired generals.

And, Mr. President, I will not address you directly, but I would ask you, Madam Speaker, to allow me to say that the bill will be on his desk this afternoon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members on both sides of the aisle that they should refrain from trafficking the well while another is under recognition.

URGING A CLEAN IRAQ
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, here we are again. Another week has gone by, and we are still discussing the Iraq emergency supplemental. The Democrats were successful in forwarding a strategy of cut and run, knowing the entire time their strategy would be vetoed by the President.

It is an ill-conceived idea to state you support the troops on the one hand while on the other hand you push forward with legislation that you know has no chance of gaining the President's support. I believe the Democrat leadership owes the American people an explanation of why they would do this.

Time is up and the Democrats need to come back to the realization that our troops don't deserve to be caught in the political mess between the radical left and the rest of the Democrat Party. It is time for a clean supplemental to come to the floor so that we can send the President a bill that supports our troops without handcuffing our generals and withdrawing our troops before this critical mission is complete.

THE IRAQ WAR

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, 4 years after the banner was unfurled, these are the missions that have been accomplished by the President:

America is more divided than at any time since the Vietnam War. The Iraq Government has before it a sweetheart deal that benefits Big Oil that the U.S. brokered behind the scenes. Read Josh Holland's investigative piece on alternet.com;

America is increasingly isolated in the Arab world, and countries that

looked up to America now look out or look the other way. Read Rami Khouri's commentary published in the April 19 issue of the Daily Star in Lebanon;

The number of Pentagon contractors in Iraq who are profiting in the spoils of war, raking in vast sums of U.S. taxpayer money, nearly equals the number of U.S. soldiers. Read "Iraq War: a Nice Little Earner" in the Asia Times newspaper dated April 19;

Americans are so fed up with the President's state of denial that they returned Democratic majorities to the House and Senate last November. Read the April 26 editorial in my hometown newspaper, the Seattle PI: "Iraq: Keep Speaking Out."

Missions accomplished? All but the most important one: getting U.S. soldiers out of Iraq.

That is the will of the American people and the mission of the new Congress.

IT IS TIME THE DEMOCRAT LEADERSHIP PUT OUR TROOPS, NOT POLITICAL STATEMENTS, FIRST

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

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, now that the Democrats have satisfied their base and passed a bill that is guaranteed to be vetoed and delayed the necessary funding for our troops, we need to get down to business and pass a clean supplemental.

Yesterday I received a letter from a marine mom. She said she was embarrassed and saddened by the fact that somebody would leave her son and those fighting forces that are doing such a wonderful job in harm's way without funding their needs as they fight the battle for freedom. This lady was heart broken that a portion of this Congress would vote not to provide a clean bill for her son's protection.

The Chicago Tribune editorial says that President Bush is going to veto this spending bill because it has a timetable for withdrawal, and it goes on to say: "He is right to do so."

We have a new commanding general on the ground and he has a plan, and that plan has not even started to be executed. We are already seeing modest improvements.

I urge my colleagues, and that marine mom urges my colleagues, to support a clean supplemental. It is time the Democrat leadership put our troops, not political statements, first.

THE IRAQ WAR

(Mr. MAHONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Sunday in a speech at Miami Dade College, the President said to graduating students, "One of the great strengths of America is that the

most important issues are decided by the will of the people."

Today, on the fourth anniversary of "Mission Accomplished," the President is faced with a choice: either listen to the will of the American people to refocus our strengths to win the war on terror by signing the emergency supplemental bill or continue to send our brave men and women into harm's way to police a religious civil war.

Madam Speaker, today the President will decide if he will veto our bill and, in doing so, deny critical funding for our troops and for our veterans. His veto will let our troops down by not giving them the rest, the equipment, and training they need.

Madam Speaker, today all Americans need to pray for our President. We need to pray for wisdom. We need to pray that he listens to his advisers, his generals, the Iraqi people. And, most importantly, we pray that he will listen to the will of the American people.

SEND THE PRESIDENT A CLEAN BILL THAT GIVES OUR TROOPS THE MONEY THEY NEED

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, we've got the lights. We've got the cameras. We've got the characters for some fine political theater in the House of Representatives today.

Last week this Congress passed an ill-conceived, wrong-headed, ill-fated war funding bill, even though every Member of this House knew the President would veto it, even though our troops are on the front lines of a war awaiting this funding.

And while the troops face fire, the Democratic leaders fiddled. They slowed down the process even more by sitting on the bill for days.

Madam Speaker, it's time for the majority to change out of their costumes, take down the curtain, take their bow, and exit stage left because Americans don't want to see the last act of this Democratic script that calls for waving the white flag of surrender.

We owe it to our Nation and to our troops to change the ending of the story. Send the President a clean bill and give the troops the money they need to do the job. And they will be victorious.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, last Thursday, April 26, on roll call No. 269, I missed the vote. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted in the affirmative.

URGING SUPPORT FOR A CLEAN IRAQ EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, it is my hope that we can come together and agree on an Iraq emergency supplemental that provides the resources our troops need without tying the hands of our generals and forcing them to adhere to unrealistic timetables.

Last week in a Chicago Tribune editorial, they stated: "President Bush will veto the war spending bill approved by Congress this week because it contains a timetable for withdrawing U.S. combat troops from Iraq. He is right to do so."

With a new commanding general on the ground and the surge strategy still ramping up, our troops deserve this chance to make progress, and we are starting to see signs in Iraq that things are modestly improving.

I urge my colleagues to support a clean supplemental and to encourage patience as we heard 4 years ago before we even went to Iraq that this would be a long time coming, that our ultimate goal in accomplishing victory in Iraq would take some time. We need to listen to those comments, and, again, I urge patience.

THE IRAQ EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, the American people have demanded a new direction in Iraq, and last week this Congress voted to put an end to the administration's failed stay-the-course policy.

The President should support our troops and sign this responsible bill instead of issuing veto threats that continue to ignore the reality of our troops' being caught in the middle of a civil war. It is ironic that we are expecting the President to veto this bill to bring our troops home 4 years to the day after he declared the job done in Iraq. It is time for accountability from the administration and from the Iraqi Government.

Our bill provides what the American people are demanding and what our troops need: a responsible policy that funds our troops, demands accountability from the administration and the Iraqi Government, and supports our veterans.

The President should listen to Congress. Sign this bill, take the funding, and accept accountability.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT: SEND OUR TROOPS THE FUNDS THEY NEED

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, time is running out to send our troops the funds and resources they need to continue their critical mission in Iraq.

The new congressional majority ensured the veto the President promised

by submitting a supplemental loaded with pork and a timeline for retreat on our commanders in the field. Now it's time to pass a clean supplemental.

The National Intelligence Estimate released in January warned of the perils of an early troop withdrawal, stating: "If coalition forces were withdrawn rapidly during the term of this estimate, we judge that this almost certainly would lead to a significant increase in the scale and scope of sectarian conflict in Iraq."

Many on the other side of the aisle urge Congress to heed the words in this document; yet they stare blindly at it as they force a strategy of retreat and defeat. This leads me to believe that the new congressional majority would rather use our troops to make a political statement than work in bipartisan fashion to give our brave men and women in uniform the funding they need.

It's time we vote on a clean supplemental and give the troops the support they deserve.

FOUR YEARS AGO IT WAS MISSION ACCOMPLISHED; NOW IT IS THE NEVER-ENDING, EVER-CHANGING MISSION

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today we insist, we ask, the President to fund the troops by not vetoing this bill. We ask the President to sign the bill.

What has been described as pork is not pork. What it is, is money for traumatic brain injury. What it is, is money for veterans who are suffering, who have serious problems and serious needs for funding.

The President has received more money than he even asked for for these troops, and we insist and ask him to sign the bill so that the troops can get the money that they need. It is going to be on his desk. The funds that the President needs will be on his desk. And if the President vetoes the bill, it will be the President who denies the troops the funds that they need. The President must accept responsibility for denying the troops the help that they need, veterans the help that they need.

Madam Speaker, we urge the community to understand the truth about the situation, which is that a veto is undermining the troops.

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IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, our enemies are listening, and they are planning on our actions today, just like the North Vietnamese did decades ago. And don't believe me, but listen to

the words of Colonel Bui Tin, who served on the general's staff of the North Vietnamese Army and received the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam on April 30, 1975.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal in 1995, he drew some important parallels to the debate today. When asked how the North Vietnamese intended to defeat America, Colonel Tin responded, "by fighting a long war which would break their will to help South Vietnam." He went on to quote Ho Chi Minh, who said, "We don't need to win military victories, we only need to hit them until they give up and get out." Colonel Tin said the American antiwar movement was essential to their strategy. He said it represented the conscience of America and the conscience of America was part of its war-making capability, and we were turning that power in our favor.

Through protests, America lost its ability to mobilize a will to win. That is what this supplemental does here today. Let's listen to the past and not repeat its mistakes. Let's pass a clean bill and give our soldiers what they need to win.

IRAQ TIMETABLE AND FUNDING

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I would just like to say that there has been a lot of talk about Democrats cutting and running and not helping our troops. Well, I would like to clarify the record on my own behalf.

Just a month ago, I had an opportunity, with four other Members of Congress, to visit Iraq, to visit our soldiers. I met with many, many platoons and individuals representing my State of California. We are there working hard. We need to support those troops.

Indeed, many of them said that they have been on their second and third tours. They were exhausted. They wanted to come home and see their families. One young man told me he hadn't even seen his child, who had been born 18 months already. Several of them told me that they did not have adequate equipment. And I said please explain that. "Well, ma'am, we don't have light bulbs." "What do you need light bulbs for?" "We need light bulbs for our vehicles. When we go into town and we are checking for explosive devices, we have vehicles that are not adequately equipped."

In addition, with the escalation going on right now, they are having to share their equipment with the troops that are coming in. That is shameful. That is what this administration has done to our troops.

Democrats are asking for a signature on the supplemental because we care about those troops and we care about the benefits that they deserve.