

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.