



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

No. 50

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You are forever refuge and strength for the Members of the House of Representatives and for all the military forces of the United States of America.

United in common patriotism and by the spirit of prayer today, we mentally remove ourselves from this honored and secure Chamber and desire to stand with our military, both in Iraq and Afghanistan, and pray together with our troops.

Together we seek an end to war and all forms of terrorism. Together we long for peace. Together we desire to see respect for human life and civil rights in all the streets of Baghdad and the valleys of Afghanistan. Together we are resolved to work to form stronger national unions in these countries with domestic tranquillity and common defense. Together we hope they will establish equal justice under the law. Together we pray for the secure blessing of liberty for ourselves and the posterity of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lord God, You have placed these movements in our hearts. Show America how to accomplish this task today, tomorrow and every day. For we place all our trust in You now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute on each side.

REPUBLICANS SEEM CONTENT TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT ANOTHER BLANK CHECK ON IRAQ

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, this week the war in Iraq enters its fifth year. Today I doubt anyone in this Chamber will stand up and say that it has gone as expected.

Our troops have served this Nation admirably, but the Bush war cabinet failed to properly plan for a war in Iraq. As a result, even the Pentagon now admits what many of us have been saying for months: A civil war is being fought in Iraq.

This week, we have an opportunity to send the President a message that this war is not going to go on indefinitely. Even in the face of increased violence in Iraq and the lack of real progress towards a political solution, congressional Republicans continue to pledge to stay the course.

Madam Speaker, the days of rubber-stamping the President's requests are over. The American people want Iraq to take responsibility for its own nation. The only way that is going to happen is if the Iraqi Government knows we are not going to be there indefinitely.

FY 2007 SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the FY 2007 supplemental measure as currently written. It would place dangerous constraints on our mission and our war on terrorism in Iraq by empowering our Congress to overrule our Nation's top generals, who best understand the challenges there. Our Iraq policy should be based on the recommendation of General Petraeus, not the commands of armchair generals in Congress. Our Nation's mission in Iraq is too important to fall victim to the dangerous congressional micromanagement.

Iraq is a central front in a war against the radical jihadists. The outcome of this mission will greatly impact our national security for decades to come. For this reason, this body should pass a supplemental bill that fully funds our troops, without tying the hands of our military commanders.

Vote "no" on this supplemental.

VOTE "YES" ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 1234

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Let's speak of the consequences of a "yes" vote on the Iraq supplemental.

A "yes" vote would keep the war going through the end of President Bush's term. It would provide money to fuel an attack on Iran. It would force the privatization of Iraqi oil. It would escalate the insurgency. A "yes" vote would increase the number of troop casualties in the middle of a civil war. It would increase the number of civilian casualties. It would create a demand for more troops. It would force a cutback in the agenda of many in Congress because money that could be used for schools, health care, seniors and the environment would continue to be spent for war. It would force the destabilization of the Middle East and would erode the public's confidence in Congress.

It is time to end the war; to bring the troops home; to use the money that is in the pipeline to bring the troops home; to set in place a parallel process to stabilize Iraq. That is what House Resolution 1234 is about. I urge its consideration and support of Members of Congress.

BUYING VOTES TO MICROMANAGE WAR IS WRONG

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today we will debate the emergency supplemental to fund our efforts in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Will it be an open debate? No. We will be operating under a closed rule with no amendments. Will it be a focused debate? No. Unless you believe that pork barrel spending on spinach farmers and peanut storage are critical to the global war on terror.

A USA Today editorial said this: "It is hard to say which is worse, leaders offering peanuts for a vote of this magnitude, or Members allowing their votes to be bought for peanuts. These provisions demean a bill that if enacted would affect the lives of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, the balance of power in the Middle East and America's long-term security."

Reports today also say that if pork-barrel spending isn't enough, that Democrat leaders are issuing veiled threats, such as the loss of committee assignments, for those Members who oppose them. The Democrat leaders offered the voters change in November, but all the Nation is getting is politics worse than usual.

The supplemental should be defeated, and the Democrat majority should come back with a bill that honors our troops and does not demean their sacrifice.

IN FAVOR OF THE WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a new direction in Iraq.

For 4 years, Republican Congresses followed lock-step as this President led our country into an open-ended commitment refereeing a religious civil war on the streets of Baghdad and Iraq.

After the fall of Saddam Hussein, ensuring no weapons of mass destruction, and several elections, the Republican Congress still follows lock-step as my fellow soldiers continue to give the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq, without a clear mission, without benchmarks to determine success, and without a clear timeline for coming home. That ends in the 110th Congress. This is a defining moment.

Mr. Speaker, many of us were elected to Congress on the promise of new leadership. That is what the Iraq Accountability Act does. It leads the way out of Iraq, leads the way to rebuild our overextended Army, and leads the way to win the war on terror.

For too long the American people have been craving leadership, craving accountability and craving new direction in Iraq. Let's give them that with this piece of legislation.

LET'S GIVE OUR TROOPS A CLEAN EMERGENCY SPENDING BILL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I support the war in Iraq and the President's call for reinforcements. I made every effort to support our troops in the field, but I cannot support the Iraq supplemental because it is fiscally irresponsible and constitutionally flawed.

Emergency war spending bills should be about emergency war spending. In addition to much-needed support for our troops, this legislation contains billions of dollars in domestic spending that have nothing whatsoever to do with our national defense. And this bill is constitutionally flawed.

Under the Constitution, it is very clear; Congress may declare war; Congress may choose to fund or choose not to fund war; but Congress may not conduct war.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is fiscally irresponsible and constitutionally flawed. The American people expect this Congress to send our soldiers the resources they need to win in Afghanistan and Iraq with no strings and no pork. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, consider carefully what you will do today. The American people want our troops to come home, but they want them to win and come home. Let's give them a

clean emergency spending bill, and give them a chance to do just that.

FEBRUARY JOB NUMBERS

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the most recent employment report showing modest job gains in February provided further signs of a slowing economy. Private sector employment rose by just 58,000 jobs, the smallest monthly gain in nearly 2½ years.

The unemployment rate edged down last month only because the labor force shrank, and many people are discouraged by their job prospects. This is hardly the picture of a robust labor market, which is not good news for workers.

President Bush is now tied with his father for the dubious honor of having the worst job-creation record of any President since President Hoover. American families are understandably worried about the future because the economy is weakening even before many have shared in the gains from the economic growth so far.

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EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS PORK

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this week politicians in Congress are trying to use our military troops as a bargaining chip for their own pork barrel and domestic projects. Some of these projects are designed to buy votes of wavering Members. The bill includes such things as \$25 million for spinach subsidies, \$74 million for peanut storage, \$120 million for the shrimp industry, money for extra office space for the House of Representatives.

This bill ought to focus on our troops. Congress is telling the President you cannot fund body armor for our troops in combat until you give us more money for our pet projects and pork barrel. Those tactics are fiscally irresponsible and wrong. Let's pass a clean emergency spending bill.

ALL AMERICANS DESERVE REPRESENTATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to support legislation that will bring Washington, D.C. into this century. It is time to give the citizens of Washington, D.C. the right to vote in the United States Congress.