

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

**PRESIDENT BUSH'S SUPPLEMENTAL \$200 BILLION REQUEST IS A STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 22, 2007, President Bush requested an additional \$46 billion for U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is on top of the original \$150.5 billion requested at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2008, bringing the total amount requested to \$196.4 billion, more than 10 times the original 50 to \$60 billion cost estimated by the White House in 2002.

A Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimate that was released on October 24 determined that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could cost more than \$2.4 trillion, amounting to nearly \$8,000 for every American through the next decade. Notably, the war in Iraq accounts for about 70 percent of the \$2.4 trillion cost estimate.

Meanwhile, the administration is satisfied with continuing our military operations in Iraq, functioning on borrowed time and largely borrowed money. The result is a limited budget to advance our priorities at home, like aiding the increasingly unstable real estate market and providing adequate health care for our children.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq continues to be mismanaged. As a senior member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I received testimony from Secretary Rice on October 25 regarding corruption in Iraq, private contractors and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Unfortunately, I must say that I walked away with very few answers.

There were very few, if any answers at all, for why President Maliki issued an executive order to stay the corruption investigation of his cousin, the Minister of Transportation.

There was no answer for why individuals in Secretary Rice's own department, such as Stuart Bowen, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, have described U.S. anticorruption programs as lacking a strategic plan and corruption levels amounting to a "secondary insurgency" that threatens to undermine U.S. and Iraqi efforts to build a stable democracy.

There was no answer for why, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report, the United States Embassy in Baghdad, "does not have a firm plan or strategy for addressing the next steps in the development of the system," despite the substantial U.S. investment.

There was no answer for why Secretary Rice has permitted contractors in Iraq, such as Blackwater, to escape justice for crimes they have allegedly committed, blaming it on simply a hole in the United States law, while providing them with the stamp of impunity.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, Secretary Rice provided us with no answer for why, despite the United States spending over \$300 million in taxpayer dollars during the course of 2 years to improve the capacity of Iraq's ministries. And with \$255 million more sought for next year, progress has been stalled, not only by poor security, but also by pervasive corruption, a shortage of competent personnel and sectarian and political control of appointments.

Yet, despite all of these shortcomings, despite State Department's lack of ability to forestall corruption in the Iraqi Government, despite its mismanagement of paramilitary contractors, and despite the President's overall failed policy in Iraq, the President has come to Congress once again in the 11th hour requesting billions of dollars more in funding for the wars both in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, under the presentment clause of the United States Constitution, Congress, having the power of the purse, has the responsibility to execute fiscal constraint and fully investigate such war funding requests, not to act with a rubber stamp, especially when the President refuses to provide adequate health care funding for our Nation's neediest children.

Therefore, as we consider the President's war budget request, we must listen to the overwhelming majority of the American people and challenge President Bush to shift from failed policies in Iraq to a strategy that is fundamentally diplomatic and weighs heavily on the assistance of the international community. We owe this to over 3,800 brave soldiers who have lost their lives in Iraq to date. We also owe this to our hardworking constituents whose tax dollars have in part continued to fund the war in Iraq.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

**2007 COMMEMORATIVE COINS: LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DESEGREGATION AND JAMESTOWN 400TH ANNIVERSARY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, passion for collecting things as children is something that we have all gone through. Each of us has perhaps collected coins or stamps. Not everyone collects stamps, not everyone collects coins, not everyone collects insects; but all of us appreciate the value of courage. And I rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, to talk about a coin that is now available for sale on the usmint.gov Web site, the commemorative coin honoring the bravery and courage and great public service of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African American students that desegregated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. This year is the 50th anniversary of their service.

This side of the coin depicts a group of school children going to school with no other purpose than to get educated and act like kids. We sometimes forget that the Little Rock Nine 50 years ago were kids. They were children, demonstrating great bravery in trying to overcome the obstacles imposed by adults. And the coin on this side says "Liberty." The nine stars are to represent the Little Rock Nine. And it says: "Desegregation in Education, 2007, In God We Trust."

The reverse side of this coin, it is a \$1 coin, depicts Little Rock Central High School itself. It is still considered one of the Nation's most beautiful high schools.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, each year the Congress may authorize two commemorative coins. One of the coins that we authorize for sale during calendar year 2007 is this coin honoring the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. The other one was by the late Representative Jo Ann Davis of Virginia honoring the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, our beloved colleague Jo Ann Davis, who recently passed away. Both coins tell a wonderful story.

I encourage the Members and encourage the public to go to the usmint.gov Web site and consider purchasing these coins as holiday presents, as a way to pass on the legacy of the story of the bravery of these nine students desegregating Little Rock Central High School.

One of the reasons I am interested in these coins being purchased at the usmint.gov Web site is because \$10 of