

we can buy, to tell me that they are as protected as they possibly can be. I do not believe it, based on what I have been told and I think what the facts show.

So I do not want to quibble about what words we may use, but my friend has been very accurate. The gentleman has laid out the case as it unfolded.

Now we are being told, well, we are there, so we might as well just, oh, get on board and get this over with. I think it is appropriate for us to ask whether or not those who are providing leadership are worthy of our confidence. Are they competent people? Have they told the truth? Can we trust them to make further decisions about what is happening in Iraq? Those are the questions that must be answered.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I think it is important that we stress that this is not just Democrats that are posing these questions. This past week on, I think it was the "CBS Early Show," someone who understands combat, someone who was in war and who is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam conflict, CHUCK HAGEL, Republican from Nebraska, said this: "The administration has done a miserable job of planning the post-Saddam Iraq."

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The administration has done a miserable job of planning the post-Saddam Iraq. That is Senator HAGEL. We all know Senator HAGEL. Everybody in Congress respects and acknowledges his integrity, but he was right too. Maybe we failed in our responsibility collectively. I am talking about the House as well as the other branch. Because he pointed out that we allowed the administration to treat us like a nuisance. We did not ask the questions. Some of us did. But no, in the heat and in the vast amount of publicity that was attendant to the President and Vice President CHENEY and Under Secretary Wolfowitz's natural access to the media, people did not ask the tough questions. Well, not this time.

Mr. STRICKLAND. That is right.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Not this time. We want a plan, and we want all of the answers.

I can remember Secretary Feith coming in front of the Committee on International Relations. I asked him, give me just an idea of the costs to rebuild Iraq. He said, I do not have any answers.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield on that point, precisely on that question, we need an answer as to whether or not reports today in the Los Angeles Times are correct that the \$87 billion figure is some \$55 billion short of what the administration in anonymous leaks are indicating is actually needed, and that the \$87 billion is to take us up until the election; and then somehow, we are to magically find \$55 billion from supposed allies. The exact quote, as a matter of fact, is that according to the Los Angeles Times, they said they would

"pressure other countries to come up with the additional funds needed to restore security in Iraq and repair its ravaged infrastructure." And I think everything that has been said tonight is indicative of the proposition that has just been made over these past few minutes that before we vote on this \$87 billion, we have to ask the question: Is this actually the number that you are using, even internally?

Mr. DELAHUNT. And does that include the \$2 billion necessary for veterans health care benefits.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. And that is why we have to have this money authorized. That is why we have to have hearings in the Committee on Armed Services, the authorization committee. This is not just a supplemental bill to be taken to the Committee on Appropriations; this Congress needs to authorize the money that is involved in reconstruction and security in Iraq, or we are failing in our congressional duties.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman explain that for the viewers? Would the gentleman explain the point he is making about the difference between authorization and appropriation?

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Very quickly, yes. Good point. Just as it is in our State legislatures, we have to authorize, that is to say, a committee must authorize the expenditure of money before it can be appropriated. The subject matter committee, in this instance the Committee on Armed Services, must take up the question: Will we authorize the expenditure of funds? The Committee on Appropriations may, if they have an authorization, appropriate up to or, in some instances, even exceed the amount of money that is there, if they can gain the approval of the legislature; but that is the object, to have a hearing as to what, in fact, should be done. That is to say what is the policy, and then attach a money figure to it.

What we are doing is saying we are going to put money out there and then figure out a policy afterwards. What I am saying and I think all of us are saying tonight is, let us get the policy down first, and then figure out what it costs and then determine whether there is a cost-benefit ratio to that policy.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I think there is an additional thing we need in addition to the sage comments of the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE); we need to stop the administration from stealing from the Social Security trust fund to pay for this war, and that is what they are telling us they want to do. They want to take \$87 billion out of the Social Security trust fund to pay for this war. And the reason they want to do it is that they refuse to let go of their goal of continuing further tax cuts for the wealthiest folks in this country, and that is morally, ethically wrong to our children. And this Congress has an obligation to our kids to stop it right here during this supple-

mental, and I trust that we are making an effort to do that.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if I could make a final concluding remark, and then I will then defer to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL). There was a report today, or rather Monday, in The Washington Post that the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld, when he was concluding his 4-day trip to Iraq and Afghanistan, complained that critics of the Bush administration's Iraq policy are encouraging terrorists and complicating the war on terrorism. Give me a break.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Can I respond to that, please?

Mr. DELAHUNT. Yes. Give me a break. We are going to ask the question.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I hope the Secretary never says that in my presence, because if he does, I am going to have to challenge him. None of us, none of us condone terrorism. In fact, we are here because we are concerned that this administration is not adequately waging the war on terrorism. "Osama bin Forgotten" is out there somewhere planning the next attack on this country. The President said he can run, but he cannot hide. Well, he ran and he has hidden, and he is planning the next attack. And for the Secretary to say such a thing outside the country, outside the country I think is grossly unfair and I think the Secretary owes this Congress and each of us who have a responsibility under the Constitution to represent our constituents and to speak our mind as we believe the truth to be, he has no right to make such an accusation against any of us.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, if I may dovetail on your disenchantment with the total irresponsible comments of the Secretary. He said there was al Qaeda in Iraq before our attack on Iraq, and the evidence would suggest that was not the case. But as a result, following his efforts and his strategy, they are in Iraq and Iraq indeed has been turned into a potential breeding ground for terrorism. That is the kind of policy we do not want to see continued. This is the kind of mistake we do not want to see this administration make again.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). As a general reminder, the Chair would like to reiterate that as stated in section 370 of the House Rules and Manual, suggesting mendacity on the part of the President is not in order, even by innuendo. As such, the Chair would reiterate that accusations of intentional deception are not in order.

Furthermore, the Chair will remind Members that it is not in order to quote Senators' remarks spoken in the media.