

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to see the war continue another day. I want our troops home immediately, and I am frustrated beyond words by the President's continued intransigence in the face of overwhelming evidence and opinion. The bill that this House is debating today will take us closer to the moment when every American soldier, sailor, airman or Marine in Iraq can be brought home.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, the majority of Americans do not support the President on Iraq. Yet he persists.

Our caucus is united in our desire to end this war and bring our troops home safely despite our genuine disagreements as to how and when to bring this about. Within this disagreement, we reflect the broad spectrum of opinion in our country. Yet, as Members of Congress, we must take action to change the trajectory of this war, to come closer to the goal of ending the war.

By setting deadlines for the President to meet his own articulated benchmarks, this bill places us firmly on that path.

This bill is not perfect. There will be "no" votes because there are deadlines and "no" votes because the deadlines are too distant. The "perfect" bill that all of us can support will not materialize and we will be no closer to ending this war.

At the same time, until their safe return, we must support our troops and provide them with the equipment and protective gear they need while they are in harm's way.

With this bill, Congress for the first time since the war began is not handing the President a blank check or rubber stamping his failed conduct of this war.

I strongly urge passage of this bill.

□ 1915

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time for tomorrow.

Mr. LEWIS of California. That is agreeable to us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 261, further proceedings on the bill will be postponed.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

#### IRAQ WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow up on the debate which we have just temporarily postponed until

tomorrow morning on the supplemental appropriations bill for the Iraq war, and I wanted to start off by reiterating the statement made by Mr. SHADEGG of Arizona in which he said he knew of no point in history where a country at war declared an end date for when they would be getting out of that war, the point being that most countries fight wars until the war is finished, based on the war situation, and not based on a calendar and an arbitrary date at that.

I think that is very important as we have this vote tomorrow because we are, in fact, hurting our troops if we make the announcement right now to the enemy that by March of 2008 we will be leaving. We know particularly in the Middle East and in Iraq that in cities such as Tikrit and Fallujah, as we have been there the last 3 or 4 years, that whenever the enemy wants to, it can lay low and wait till our troop situation or troop level shifts, and then they come out of the woodwork. I think if we do announce that we are going to be gone in March 2008, no matter what happens on the field of battle, then that enemy is going to use that same tactic to just wait until the Americans are out of town.

If we do leave that country before the job is done, then what happens, Mr. Speaker, is it could cause chaos. A civil war could erupt, and a lot of people say, well, I do not care if a civil war erupts. But how do you know it is going to stay in the boundaries of Iraq? Why would not the Shiites in Iran, for example, get involved in it? We already know they are getting involved in supplying the Shiites in Iraq with things. We do not know what will happen in that volatile area.

What happens to our ally Israel? We know that the Arab countries want to wipe Israel off the map. Are we doing Israel any favors if we abruptly withdraw and arbitrarily withdraw from Iraq?

And what happens to the oil reserves? I know it is interesting, everybody likes to say no war for oil, but the reality is you cannot fight a war without oil, and you cannot run our economy without oil, and petrodollars can stir up a lot of trouble around the globe. Just ask Hugo Chavez in Venezuela what he has done with his petrodollars, street money, and here we would be turning over the second or third largest oil reserves in the world over to a terrorist anti-American state.

Think about this for a minute in that context. America drilling and tapping into all the reserves that we have, we control 3 percent of the world's oil reserves. We use 25 percent. We import 60 percent. If you wanted to declare war on America, you would look at our oil supply, as countries have always looked at the energy or food supply of any country that they have planned to invade.

I want to say this. I represent Fort Stewart. This week the 3rd Infantry Division starts on its third deployment

to Iraq. General Lynch, the commanding general, just left on Tuesday. But back in Hinesville, Georgia, there are 318 memorial trees that have been planted in memory of 3rd Infantry soldiers who have lost their life in Iraq. I have gone to some of the ceremonies. It is a sad thing, but even as you leave the field, the memorial field, soldiers say, we want to complete this job.

I have visited soldiers in the hospitals in Baghdad and at Walter Reed and in Ramstein, Germany, in Landstuhl, and they all say they want to go back and finish the job. But I do not want to tell you that I can speak for the troops because there is thousands of them, and I always resent when people come here and say this is what the troops want, because the troops are just like the rest of America, we want a lot of things, and America is divided on this.

But I want to say to the Democrats, I think that you have done the right thing. This war has needed more oversight. I believe we as Republicans were remiss in not having more oversight. I think putting up goals in the form of what we would like the Iraqi Government to do, I think that that is fitting and proper, but I think to have hard and fast deadlines is unreasonable.

We, in this over 200-year constitutional government, cannot do things that we should do. Last year, for example, we were not able to pass a budget. We did not pass all of our appropriation bills. The important thing is the Republican Party, certainly as the majority party, we are guilty, but the point is we could not even do that in our own government. How do we expect the Iraqis to do it by an arbitrary date set?

So I recommend that we recommit this bill, hammer out some of the differences, and then bring it back to the floor in a different and improved product.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILL

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, those elected to serve in the people's House sometimes must decide matters of war and peace, in other words, matters of life and death, and nothing is more important.

Today we stand at the crossroads of one such momentous decision, and let

no one doubt that the lives of American soldiers and Iraqi civilians hang in the balance.

This is a vote of conscience and one of the most important votes I will ever cast in the House of Representatives.

I wish we were debating the language of the 1970 McGovern-Hatfield amendment. It called for directing funds only for the safe and orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops from Indochina. I enter into the RECORD at this point the Iraq version of the McGovern-Hatfield that I want to offer.

PROPOSED McDERMOTT AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1591, MODELED ON MCGOVERN-HATFIELD

After April 30, 2007, funds herein appropriated may be expended in connection with the activities of American Armed Forces in or over Iraq, Iran or Syria bordering Iraq only to accomplish the following objectives:

(1) the orderly termination of military operations and the safe and systematic withdrawal of remaining armed forces by December 31, 2007 and

(2) provision of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the people of Iraq.

SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN'S SPEECH IN FAVOR OF THE MCGOVERN-HATFIELD AMENDMENT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1970:

"Every senator in this chamber is partly responsible for sending 50,000 young Americans to an early grave. This chamber reeks of blood. Every Senator here is partly responsible for that human wreckage at Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval and all across our land—young men without legs, or arms, or genitals, or faces or hopes."

"There are not very many of these blasted and broken boys who think this war is a glorious adventure. Do not talk to them about bugging out, or national honor or courage. It does not take any courage at all for a congressman, or a senator, or a president to wrap himself in the flag and say we are staying in Vietnam, because it is not our blood that is being shed. But we are responsible for those young men and their lives and their hopes."

"And if we do not end this damnable war those young men will some day curse us for our pitiful willingness to let the Executive carry the burden that the Constitution places on us."

"So before we vote, let us ponder the admonition of Edmund Burke, the great parliamentarian of an earlier day: 'A contentious man would be cautious how he dealt in blood.'"

I wish the legislation before us was that direct, but we do have legislation before us and a momentous decision to make.

Over 4 years ago, a vote in this House enabled this President to take America to war. Earlier today I told Speaker PELOSI that I will cast my vote to bring America home to peace. I want to get all of the soldiers out of Iraq tomorrow, but safely extracting over 140,000 U.S. troops cannot be done overnight, and the safety of our soldiers in leaving Iraq must be paramount.

I want to end this incomprehensible war tomorrow, but as a medical doctor, I know that no matter what we do today, this war will go on for decades in the minds of psychologically wounded soldiers and in the bodies of severely injured soldiers.

What we have before us today is a first step, and despite my serious mis-

givings about it, it is a step in the right direction, which is out of Iraq.

Speaker PELOSI has given America a plan, a timetable and a course of action demonstrating the leadership we have not seen from the President on Iraq. The President has lost the trust of the American people, and he deepens the mistrust at home and around the world every time he speaks about Iraq.

Instead of confronting reality, the President stubbornly adheres to a fiction of his own creation that a military victory will be achieved in a nation in the throes of a full-scale civil war, with an American presence inciting unspeakable violence against our soldiers from all sides.

The Iraqi people have seen their lives sink into misery. Millions have fled their country or been displaced from their homes. Those remaining live in terror that a trip to the market will end their life, and very often it does.

The Iraqi people want us out because they see the U.S. as an occupier. They want the U.S. out because it is their country and their oil, not ours.

This war should never have started, and Americans at the end of the 21st century will still be paying for this Presidential misadventure.

Preying on the fears of the American people, this President devised a war-first policy, unheard of in American history. The President implemented his chilling foreign policy in Iraq. When just cause for a war did not exist, the administration made it up, preying on America's vulnerabilities after 9/11.

They called it a war against terror, but now we know it was a war of revenge and a war to control oil. It was never about exporting democracy. It was always about exploiting the fears of the American people to do what the White House had been planning long before 9/11: Invade Iraq, control its government, and enable foreign oil companies to reap a bonanza of profits by extracting Iraq oil and perpetuating America's addiction to oil.

Speaker PELOSI has given us a plan, not as strong as I want, but one I will support as a bare minimum because it has a timetable and demands accountability from Iraq leaders; bare minimum, but dramatically better than what we have, a war without end from a President incapable of only escalation, not negotiation.

The heroes of our Nation, the soldiers fighting and dying on the front lines, deserve to come home. The Iraq people deserve to decide the future of their own country.

With this legislation, we acknowledge the wisdom and the will of the American people. We realize that the Iraq war is a fraud, and perpetuating it by sacrificing more innocent U.S. and Iraq lives is a tragedy we can no longer tolerate.

I urge my colleagues to vote with Speaker PELOSI and vote for peace.

□ 1930

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly rise to celebrate a remarkable anniversary, that which marks a day of Greek independence which took place 186 years ago on March 25. It is also a celebration which recognizes the strong ties that bind together the United States of America and Greece.

What a blessing to be able to straddle two brilliant cultures that have been the beacon of liberty and justice for humankind. Nothing makes me prouder than to call myself American, for it was the United States that welcomed my grandparents and allowed them to bring their morals, their values, their faith, their rich ethnic traditions and work ethic to this great land of opportunity and freedom.

God, indeed, shed his grace on America, as he has on Greece, the prototype for the democratic republic that became the United States. Imagine, what a curious notion it may have seemed thousands of years ago when the ancient Greeks put forth the idea, a man being able to engage in self-rule. The originality of ideas articulated by Plato, Socrates, and all the great thinkers of ancient Greece served as an inspiration to America's colonial leaders like Jefferson, Washington, Madison, and Hamilton.

It is the American revolution in turn that likely served as an inspiration for the Greeks that were suffocating under the Ottoman rule. 186 years ago the people began a journey that would mark the symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles to human decency were first espoused.

March 25, 1821, is a historic day for all people who treasure freedom. Greece rose up in arms, fought brilliantly and finally overthrew the Ottoman rule, showing the world their deep and abiding commitment to democracy. The flag of revolt was raised by Bishop Germanos of Patras. Cries of Zito I Ellas, "Long Live Greece," and Elefteria I Thanatos, "Liberty or Death," could be heard from the mountains of Suli to the shores of Crete.

In fact, the bravery of the Suliotes demonstrated that acts of courage were not limited to the men of Greece. The fierce patriotic villagers of Suli fought the Ottomans in several battles. News of their victories spread to nearby villages and inspired others to revolt. When the women, who were left alone, learned the Ottoman troops were approaching their village, they began dancing the Syrtos, which we still do today, a patriotic Greek dance. One by one with the children in arms, the Suliote women sacrificed themselves for the cause of liberty. They chose death rather than oppression.

Stories of sacrifice like that of the Suliotes are plentiful. These actions, as