

story in today's Washington Post which reads, "The Army has publicly identified nearly \$6 billion in funding requests that did not make Bush's \$402 billion defense budget for 2005, including \$132 million for bolt-on vehicle armor; \$879 million for combat helmets, silk-weight underwear, boots and other clothing; \$21.5 million for M249 squad automatic weapons; and \$27 million for ammunition magazines, night sights and ammo packs. Also unfunded: \$956 million for repairing desert-damaged equipment and \$102 million to replace equipment lost in combat."

Mr. Speaker, the article goes on to further say, "The Marine Corps unfunded budget request includes \$40 million for body armor, light weight helmets and other equipment for 'Marines engaged in the global war on terrorism.'"

Mr. Speaker, this is simply outrageous. While the President tells the Nation that we need to stay the course, his own budget did not include the funds necessary to accomplish that goal.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman. We started this Special Order today talking about the lack of planning and the cost of the war and how we are getting all kinds of misinformation in that regard, and it continues. This is the problem. We are hearing now the President saying that he wants to go to the U.N. and internationalize the war, but we are still not getting any adequate information about what the strategy is, what the cost is going to be. And I think those are answers that the American people want.

I think, again, whether you supported the war in the beginning or you did not, I did not, I know most of us who spoke today did not, but that is not the issue any more. The issue is where are we going from here. We are still being given inaccurate information about where we are going.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Certainly the issue is accountability. We simply want accountability. We are asked to appropriate large sums of money, but the question is, where does the money go?

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of our speakers that joined us today.

#### CREDIBILITY GAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, in concert with the theme that has just preceded me in the 1-hour session, I wanted to talk about the credibility of our present administration with respect to the war in Iraq also.

A lot of us have chosen in say that we are into a second Vietnam. And there are some people who are quite upset that we compared the war in Iraq to the war in Vietnam. It is true that

the war in Vietnam cost us 58,000 lives, and so far we have only loss 700 officially in Iraq. But should that be the barometer? 58,000 have not died; 58,000 wives, mothers, sisters have not yet cried.

But why wait until that happens? Why not see every human life as being sacred? Every life is sacred. The men and women who die on the battle field give us their total, and we ought to appreciate that by not jeopardizing it for goals that are questionable.

This is a war that should never have been. This is a war that does not have much to do with fighting terrorism.

□ 1615

Yes, Saddam Hussein is gone. He is out of office now, and that is a great benefit for the world, as well as the people of Iraq, but is the price worth it? Are we not paying too great a price just to get rid of Saddam Hussein?

We were never told that was just the objective. We were told it was a question of weapons of mass destruction, and it was a question of Iraq operating in concert with the al Qaeda terrorists. We were told that there were stockpiles of chemical weapons. We were told other reasons other than just getting rid of Saddam Hussein.

Saddam Hussein is gone. The price is too high. We are paying financially more than \$1 billion a week to keep the war in Iraq going. We are building schools in Iraq while we are denying construction funds to school districts here in America. We are doing a lot of other things in Iraq which drain money away from badly needed programs here, despite the fact that Iraq has oil deposits which should be able to pay the cost of any rebuilding of Iraq eventually.

So what do we do at this point? Do not ask us to keep begging our troops to remain loyal and steadfast and sacrifice their lives unless you have an exit strategy, a reason for it. We do not want to see 58,000 die.

Our Vietnam memorial wall is one of the greatest monuments of its kind. It does not celebrate one general or a handful who led the war. It celebrates and makes us remember every individual who died. All of our war memorials in the future should do that. Every individual gave their life for their country, for the cause. Regardless of what you think of the cause, they, as individuals, are heroes. We do not want another memorial wall of heroes unless it is absolutely necessary.

Vietnam turned out not to be necessary. The domino theory was not correct. We lost Vietnam, and we still won the Cold War with the Soviet Union. We still won the Cold War with the Soviet Union. We did not go on from Vietnam to other areas.

We have a great affinity and alliance with Communist China right now, which baffles me. Why are we so kind to accommodate China and have so many business dealings with them if we fought and died in Vietnam to keep communism from extending itself across the world?

So my plea is that let us understand the lessons of Vietnam without having first to see 58,000 die. Fifty-eight thousand should not have to die for us to understand that we need to work backwards and understand that eventually we are going to settle this war in Iraq like we settled the complex war in Vietnam.

There was an argument about what the shape of the table would be. Let us look at the same table they used in Vietnam, and let us begin right now to negotiate backwards exactly what our terms are going to be and how we are going to get out and maintain law and order. And I am in favor of maintaining law and order until we do have a strategy and exit that can leave the people of Iraq in better shape than we found them.

Let us do it now. Let us share that plan with Members of Congress. Let us share that plan with the public. Let us share power with all of the members of the United Nations Security Council and all the members of NATO. Let us challenge them to come forward and help us bring it into this. We need more troops. Let them come from Russia, let them come from China, let them come from France, let them come from Germany, but give them the power to help make decisions and exit from Iraq before we have 58,000 of our loyal soldiers die.

#### APPROPRIATING MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I am going to discuss what Congress is doing in the last several weeks and the next several months, and that is appropriating money.

A week or so ago, most of the people in the United States were completing their tax bills. This is sort of a tutorial on what happens to the tax dollars of American taxpayers and what happens to the FICA tax, the payroll deduction tax, taken out of American workers.

I start with a pie chart, if you will, Mr. Speaker, and this pie chart represents how we are spending the \$2.4 trillion that we are budgeting for this coming year. We see the biggest piece of pie is Social Security at 21 percent. The previous speakers were talking about defense. Defense and national security, they are probably the prime objectives of the Federal Government compared to what State governments do, and yet we have diminished the share of total Federal spending of defense since World War II down to 20 percent of the total expenditures of Federal Government.

I want to especially pay attention to the 14 percent that says interest. The interest of the Federal Government now is \$240 billion a year. That is the interest that we are paying on the national debt. It is an interest rate that