

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109-234)	48	39,863	0
Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-289)	70,000	40,473	0
Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-295)	1,829	943	0
Total, enacted emergency requirements:	71,877	81,279	0

These amounts are generally excluded from the current level. However, section 402 of the 2007 budget resolution specifies that upon enactment of funding for the global war on terrorism, amounts included in the budget resolution for such purpose shall be considered current law when preparing the current level. Therefore, the current level includes \$50,000 million in budget authority and \$33,500 million in outlays assumed in the budget resolution.

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

OUR MISSION IN IRAQ

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor to talk a little bit about national security and where the Nation's defense apparatus stands as of now. But I thought I also might comment on the comments that were made by two of my wonderful colleagues, Ms. WOOLSEY of California and Mr. PAUL of Texas, who preceded me and commented about their position to the effect that we should bring our troops home immediately from Iraq. And implicit in their comments was the message that somehow Saddam Hussein's continued rule of Iraq would have been preferable to the American intervention.

I disagree with that theme, and let me tell you why. In listening to Ms. WOOLSEY talk about the wounded, the KIA, the suffering in that part of the world, and the burden that has been borne by American soldiers, I think it is also important to remember the Iraq that was represented by Saddam Hussein.

And while she has, obviously, the images that have compelled her to take her philosophical position, the image that I have, and I keep in my desk drawer, is the photograph of the hundreds of mothers whose bodies are strewn across the hillside in northern Iraq, holding their children, some of them newborn babies, some of them four, five, 6 years old, dead in mid-stride where they were hit by poison chemical, poison chemical that was delivered into those villages at the order of Saddam Hussein.

And I have taken, as a guy who sometimes watches the History Channel, to tuning in when I see the History Channel reviewing the exhuming of bodies in these mass graves and putting together this story, this mosaic of Iraq history under Saddam Hussein and the story of how hundreds of people, men, women and children, would be herded across fields and they would be executed and their bodies would be pushed into mass graves. And now we are uncovering those mass graves.

And just like the mass graves that we found in Europe, especially those that were filled by bodies that had been people who had been executed by the Nazis, there are more people now in those mass graves, we find, than what we had projected.

And as I watched the exhuming of some of those bodies on the History

Channel, I noticed that the anthropologist who was doing the particular work noted that the mother, in some cases, who was executed would often have a .45 bullet hole in the back of her head, and her small baby that she was holding would also have a bullet hole in the back of his or her head. So the monstrosity that was Saddam Hussein, the mass execution, the killing of people with chemical weapons, is what the American troops displaced when we moved into Iraq.

Now, it is tough to stand up a free nation and stand up a military that is able to protect it, but that is the challenge that we are meeting right now. And we are following the same basic pattern that we have followed for 60 years. Whether you are talking about Japan or the Philippines or El Salvador in our own hemisphere, first you stand up a free government. Secondly, you stand up a military that is capable of protecting that free government, and third, the Americans, not coveting anything that that country has, the Americans leave.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I thought I also might speak just a little bit, as we turn over the control of Congress to the Democrat leadership, not only in the full House, but also the committee chairmanships, and my own committee chairmanship now has been relinquished to the gentleman from Missouri, IKE SKELTON, my good friend and a wonderful person and a person with a real heart for the troops. I thought that I might just comment about where we stand right now. I think it is important for the American people to know where we stand and what this Congress that is going out has accomplished for national security.

First, what have we done for the troops? Well, over the last 8 years we have increased the pay for the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines, and the National Guard by right at 40 percent, a 40 percent pay increase. We have increased family separation pay, the amount of money that we deliver to our military families when they are separated when people are deployed overseas. We have increased that from \$100 a month to about \$250 a month. We have increased our combat pay.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have only got 5 minutes, so I will elaborate on some of the accomplishments that occurred during this last Congress in the next hour.

DEFINING EARMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, again, thank you for the leadership given today and yesterday by Speaker PELOSI and the House leadership for putting us on the right course. And it is interesting to listen to my good friends, and they are good friends, who are on the other side of the aisle and to listen to the conversation on the Nation's headline stations about the commitment Democrats have made to come to work. And we are delighted that in the last couple of votes we saw almost unanimous votes as relates to our open government.

But let me, as a Member who comes from a district that depends a lot on the interests and concern of this Congress about issues of empowerment of nonprofits and charitable organizations who struggle every day to mentor children, to provide economic empowerment. Sometimes they provide assistance where government cannot. And they are the recipients of earmarks. And I think it is important that we define earmarks so that the maligning that has occurred because of some inappropriate use of earmarks really doesn't hide the value of allowing these tax dollars to go back, not through government bureaucracy but right to the people.

□ 1430

An example of that is the Texas Southern University Laboratory School, a school that is placed in a public housing complex that educates the children and other surrounding children in that neighborhood in a progressive and op-educational system, so much so that their test scores have excelled beyond public school. It is, in fact, formerly a school that had been embraced by the public school system, and now has been spun off to Texas Southern University, a teaching college, and the housing authority.

We have an earmark, of which I am very proud to have all of the scrutiny that anyone might want, that would provide dollars to continue this interesting and provocative way of teaching our children so that inner city children, children that would be pegged as not being able to be creative, are actually passing their science tests, their math tests, and they rush to school because they have a lust for learning. That is an earmark.

What I believe in this bill has been passed on reform is transparency. And any day of the week, I would be willing to associate my name to track where these monies go and determine whether there are any special interests that come back to me. You will find a complete slate in this particular earmark. And all other earmarks as this bill will allow, we will be able to say this is what this earmark is for. It is not a special interest, it does not go back to give any individual Member any kind of advantage.

These earmarks are crucial, such as earmarks for the Northeast YMCA, that deals again in the far reaches of the 18th Congressional District but helps youngsters develop leadership skills; or the earmarks that go to public health clinics that will help create a greater opportunity for first-line health care for the elderly and working Americans in the working class.

Again, this should be a Congress not wracked with special interests but a Congress who really believes in the people who went out to vote in this last election. So I am proud to be associated with this lobbying reform that has as one of its key elements the right for the American people to know where their tax dollars are going. And any day that any one of us is fortunate enough to receive an earmark, you should have the ability to be able to review it.

Let me also say as we move forward into the 100 hours of legislation how proud I am to be part of the overall package. And let me say to those of you throughout the community who have had those kinds of questions, like one of the questions that I have been asked, when are we going to raise the minimum wage, let me respond to the small businesses who might say this is going to be an extraordinary burden. I would remind you that when we raised it in 1997, you survived.

It has been 10 years since we raised the minimum wage. Those individuals who receive an increase in the minimum wage are the consumers of America. They will be in your small stores in your neighborhoods. They will be in your small businesses. They will provide the backbone of your increased economic benefit. So we should not look to the increase in the minimum wage as undermining small businesses. It will not. It will create such an infusion of dollars and provide additional dollars of saving, even though it is a measured increase that it increases over a period of time.

What a difference it will make for those individuals supporting families, single parents, double parents, working families still on the minimum wage. What a difference it will make for them to have an opportunity to grab hold or to aspire some day in their life to the American Dream. We cannot continue to be this great country without having this opportunity.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, let me simply say the minimum wage is vital; as

are the 9/11 Commission recommendations, finally to be able to secure America; and, lastly, I look forward to bringing to the floor what America has sent us here to do, which is to find a dignified way of bringing our soldiers home with dignity and respect, with a thank you for what they have done on the front lines of Iraq. That is the challenge for America. That is the challenge for those of us who have come in the majority this time.

EARLY ACTIONS OF NEW DEMOCRAT MAJORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this is a nice occasion at the end of the week to wrap up what we have been doing and talk about how we have been active this week, but before I start, I would like to yield to the distinguished former chairman of the Armed Services Committee, my colleague from California (Mr. HUNTER), to discuss points that he illuminated in his first 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. MCHENRY, and again, I thought it was important, as we move into this new era and my great friend IKE SKELTON takes over the Armed Services Committee to reflect on where we stand and what we did in the last Congress.

Again, just to reiterate, we culminated a 40 percent pay increase for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, and the National Guard in this last 8 years. Along with that, we increased family separation pay, which is the pay a family receives when the loved one is separated, maybe is in theatre, or maybe is deployed far around the world in this global war against terror. We increased that from \$150 to \$250 per month. We increased combat pay. We increased a number of our insurances. And also, Mr. Speaker, we increased TRICARE coverage for National Guard personnel and for their families.

Along with that, we did something that was really the special project of the outgoing readiness chairman, Mr. Hefley of Colorado, which was to bring in to full flower this privatization of housing on military bases across the country so that military wives and family members could move into really great housing.

I have to tell you, in visiting bases across America, it has been heartwarming to see these military families coming into wonderful new housing that often has an entertainment area in maybe a common area with a pool and tennis courts and reading rooms in the center of one of these housing projects where the families can go for entertainment and take their children for good quality time.

So the quality of life for America's military families has been greatly increased over the last 8 years.

Now, what have we done in terms of firepower? Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that beginning with this administration and meetings that we held with the Secretary of Defense and with the President, one concern that I had, and a number of members of our committee had, was the amount of what I would call precision firepower. That is the ability to deliver a smart bomb or a precise system. Instead of, for example, having to drop 100 bombs on a bridge to knock a bridge out, to be able to send a smart bomb in, hit one strut on that bridge, and bring the bridge down.

We all know now that this is the age of precision firepower, and we wanted to greatly expand our precision firepower because that gives the United States the capability to project enormous power around the world when we have to. So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to report to the people of the House, to our great colleagues and to the American people that we have in the last 8 years more than doubled, more than doubled our precision firepower.

A lot of that is manifested in what we call LGBs, or laser-guided bombs. A lot is manifested in what we call JDAMs, or joint direct attack munitions. But for our adversaries, that means that America has the power now to send in more than twice the firepower in precise places, at precise targets with enormous effect. That is very important for America's troops and for America's strength.

Now, Mr. Speaker, also people have asked what have we done in terms of enlarging the size of the two ground elements of America's military, the primary ground elements, the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps? We have increased the size of the Marine Corps now from 175,000 personnel to 180,000 personnel. We have increased it right at, in fact, exactly 5,000 Marines. And the last time I checked, we were something like 100 Marines under that limit. But we have gone from 175,000 Marines to 180,000 Marines. We are right at that exact number, a few people short, but we have those Marines actually on the ground, deployed, showing up for roll call each day in their particular position in the war against terror. So we have increased the size of the United States Marine Corps. Now, we may need further increases, but at least at this point we have a 5,000 troop increase.

With respect to the Army, we took the Army end strength from 482,000 to 512,000. That is a 30,000 person increase in the United States Army. Now, a number of us on the Armed Services Committee have done an analysis parallel to the QDR, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and we feel we may have to increase the Marine Corps and the Army further, and you can see those recommendations manifested in that report. But we have actually increased the Army and we have increased the size of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Now, if you ask, and a number of people have asked since Ronald Reagan