Mr. Chairman, Congressman Jack Murtha from Pennsylvania, a

decorated Marine from the Vietnam War and the most respected person in

the House of Representatives on military affairs, has the Iraq

situation just about right. A free and stable Iraq cannot be achieved

militarily. We should not be suffering casualties nearly three years

after that fateful day on the carrier off San Diego when President Bush

declared ``Mission Accomplished,'' and yet 93 percent of our casualties

have occurred since that day.

The Iraqis must make hard political decisions. They must decide if

they want a unified country with shared power and responsibility

proportionate to population and protected rights for all. As long as we

run the military operations and bear the brunt of casualties, the

political decisions are avoided. We must make it clear that we will not

be caught in their civil war if the Iraqis do not want a unified

country enough to avoid a civil war politically.

We must make a concerted effort to persuade the EU, NATO and the rest

of our allies to help train Iraqi security forces and establish a

judicial system so Iraqis can regain their lives. President Bush's

repeated claim that nearly 200,000 Iraqi police and army personnel have

been trained to secure Iraq has been disputed for months, even by our

own military leaders. However, those Iraqis, whatever their numbers,

must stand up for a unified Iraq if that is what they want and believe

in. Finally, we need to withdraw from Iraq expeditiously within 2006.

I am voting against this supplemental budget because it simply

enables the president to continue his totally flawed and incompetently

managed misadventure without forcing the Iraqis to reach political

accommodations that can end the insurgency and create a stable, unified

country. This war supplemental will be followed by another equally

large one as soon as our November elections have passed. You can bet on

it.