Mr. Speaker, I rise, regrettably, today in

opposition to the supplemental conference report before us, the first

time I have risen in opposition to an appropriations conference report

in more than 12 years. The Democratic side of the aisle and many of

their liberal newspaper editors are intent on substituting their

judgment for that of our professional, trained, experienced military

leaders.

I am reminded of a quote that I want to read to you, it's very brief,

that speaks to this subject. I will tell you the author in just a

moment. ``It appears we have appointed our worst generals to command

forces, and our most gifted and brilliant citizens to edit newspapers.

In fact, I discovered by reading newspapers that these editor geniuses

plainly saw all my strategic defects from the start, yet failed to

inform me until it was too late. Accordingly, I am readily willing to

yield my command to these obviously superior intellects, and I will, in

turn, do my best for the cause by writing editorials after the fact.''

Signed, Robert E. Lee.

This Congress is made up of 535 lawyers, doctors and teachers, some

with military experience, some without. It is not, however, made up of

535 military commanders who possess the ability to manage a war against

al Qaeda. Yet that is what this conference report does. It enables over

just half of 535 politicians to micromanage the war in Iraq against al

Qaeda.

Sadly, though, this is not the only reason to vote against this

conference report. It's also full of billions of dollars in spending

categorized as an emergency which undermines the true needs of our

troops and gulf coast hurricane recovery efforts. Specifically for

Homeland Security, the supplemental contains two categories of

emergency funding, hurricane recovery and the global war on terrorism.

Speaking to the hurricane recovery portion, this is a true 2007

emergency. FEMA needs these funds now to continue our commitment to the

devastated gulf coast region and to ensure the disaster relief fund

does not run dry in the middle of what experts are predicting will be

an active hurricane season.

I can only hope that in an effort to keep the overall exorbitant

spending of the bill down, the majority has not shortchanged the true

needs of this account.

The global war on terrorism, part of this funding bill, is another

story. While it contains many worthy and important items such as

nuclear and explosive detection systems and additional aircraft for the

northern border, things I have supported in the past and continue to

support, they are in no way a 2007 emergency. In every instance, these

items could and should be addressed in the regular 2008 appropriations

bill. By including them in this 2007 emergency, the majority is simply

trying to look strong on security and buy down requirements to free up

funds in 2008 for additional spending.

While I support homeland security spending, I support it in a

fiscally responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have two such compelling reasons

to vote against a bill: taking away authority to manage our war against

al Qaeda from the military commanders, and carelessly adding billions

of dollars in non-emergency spending. These are the very reasons we

will be back here addressing these matters again in a couple of weeks

after the President vetoes the bill.

We should address these issues now, and stop the political

gamesmanship that harms both our troops and the gulf coast recovery

effort. This bill is nothing short of a cut-and-run in the fight

against al Qaeda. I urge a ``no'' vote.