Mr. President, I am pleased to vote in favor of the

fiscal year 2007 supplemental because it contains binding language that

effectively ends the current misguided military mission in Iraq and

requires the President to begin withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq.

While this action is long overdue, it is a big step in the right

direction and it brings us closer to ending our involvement in this

disastrous war.

I am also pleased that the supplemental includes necessary funding to

address conflicts throughout the world, especially in Sudan, Somalia,

and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to assist Iraqi refugees and

internally displaced persons fleeing their homes, and to help pay for

U.S. arrears to the U.N.

The supplemental also contains a 1-month extension of the Milk Income

Loss Contract, MILC, program, which fixes a quirk that could have put

family dairy farmers on unequal footing during the upcoming farm bill

debate. I was glad this provision was included in the supplemental and

will work with my colleagues to retain it during conference.

I am extremely disappointed at the removal of a provision in the

supplemental spending bill that would have fixed a glaring problem in

immigration law that effectively labeled the Hmong as terrorists. We

will forever be indebted to the Hmong who fought alongside and

supported the United States during the Vietnam war. I will continue

working to make sure that Hmong and other legitimate refugees who are

not threats to our national security do not face lengthy and

unnecessary delays as the Federal agencies involved determine whether

they are eligible for a waiver that would permit them to resettle in

the United States or adjust their immigration status.

I remain concerned at the continued practice of funding the war in

Iraq through emergency spending bills. We should not be using such

bills to bypass the regular appropriations process. That is why I

supported efforts to remove certain spending provisions that do not

appear to address true emergencies, including an amendment offered by

Senator Coburn to remove funding for next year's political conventions.