Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Washington for

allowing me to speak and granting me the time right here in my

schedule.

I rise today to reflect on the current emergency supplemental bill

that is before us. I believe, as many do in this body, the current

situation in Iraq is not sustainable but that it requires positive

change, not defeatism. I think the worst thing we could do would be to

give the terrorists of the world an opportunity to declare victory. In

the long run, that would make it more difficult to assure Americans

will be safe.

This bill includes conditions that do not support the commanders on

the ground and sets artificial deadlines for troop withdrawal. I have

consistently said we should give the President's plan time to work.

There are signs it is.

I read today General McCaffrey's assessment. While not upbeat, he did

find that ``the situation on the ground has clearly and measurably

improved.'' He says we have ``little time left.'' I agree. But ``little

time'' is not to set a deadline. Doing so changes the entire strategic

picture. If you will forgive me some frivolity, it is the difference

between the 2-minute warning and the ninth inning. We do not want to

let the insurgents know they just have to let the clock run down. The

insurgents might not be actually watching C-SPAN, but they do know what

we do here, what we say here and can plan accordingly. This is not the

time to micromanage the war from Washington and the Congress.

Outside this body, decisions have been made for a new direction in

Iraq. The President has laid out his new strategy to the public. ADM

William Fallon is in place as CENTCOM commander whose area of

responsibility is Iraq. We have a new commander of our forces in Iraq,

and that is GEN David Petraeus. Let me remind those who need to hear it

that we sent him to Iraq by a vote of 81 to 0 to win, not to withdraw.

Soon we will have a new diplomatic team on the ground in Baghdad as

well.

This shift in strategies also includes something I believe is

absolutely imperative to success: a real commitment from the Iraqi

Prime Minister to get his Government to play a much stronger role in

the destiny of Iraq. The President is confident we now have that

commitment. I hope we can move on to more pressing issues in the Senate

rather than repeating the same ones time and again.

One reason I do not support the withdrawal language is I believe it

is based on an assumption that by leaving Iraq Americans will be safer.

The terrorists have made it abundantly clear that Iraq is central to

their war against the civilized world. They are committed to fighting

there and will not stop unless we defeat them. If we have to fight, it

is preferable not to fight on our own soil.

We are also facing a credible veto threat. This bill is going

nowhere--at least nowhere beyond the President's desk, which means we

are delaying the needed funds for our military. This is no surprise.

The President has been very clear. When he has been this clear, he has

not deviated from his described track that he will follow.

I hope we can get past this and move on to more pressing issues such

as passing a bill that will provide our troops the money they need.

Finally, I will not support this bill because the last thing we need

to do in Congress is hurt the morale or the mission of our men and

women fighting in Iraq, especially when we have adopted the President's

plan, which is a brand new plan to succeed in Iraq. I believe it is the

right course for our troops on the ground at this time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.