Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only in strong opposition

to this ``our way or the highway'' rule, but also to the underlying

bill, which I believe encroaches on the constitutional principle of

separation of power, particularly the President's authority as

Commander in Chief.

Regretfully, this rule prevents every single Member of this body,

both Democrats and Republicans, from offering an amendment to an

emergency wartime supplemental appropriations act, a highly

unprecedented attack on the democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the majority is insistent on a force pullout

from Iraq, but the language in this supplemental puts this war and the

soldiers' lives on autopilot. This legislation makes a flash-point

decision about the war, about our men and women on the ground, with

little regard to the actual facts 6 months, a year, and indeed 17

months from now. It looks like ``Magic 8-Ball'' foreign policy.

Last night, Mr. Speaker, I offered an amendment to the Rules

Committee. Unfortunately, it was not made in order, but it would have

required this Congress to reevaluate the situation in Iraq at each of

these timelines in the so-called Murtha language. So whatever the

benchmarks, then we would have to come back and vote again, clean up or

down vote, whether or not we want to bring the troops home.

Mr. Speaker, that is especially important at the drop-dead date of

August of 2008, when this bill basically says no matter what, the

troops come home, even if we have got the bad guys on the run. I think

every Member of this body would want to support an amendment like this,

so that we would once again be able to vote and reconsider, considering

the situation on the ground.

So this legislation sets a dangerous precedent, and I respectfully

ask my colleagues, oppose the rule, oppose the underlying bill. Let's

work, both Republican and Democrat alike, let's produce a supplemental

that will actually pass this House, pass the Senate and be signed by

the President. Do right by our American soldiers, and our people and

the people in Iraq.