Madam Speaker, yesterday President Bush asked

Congress to rubber-stamp his plan to spend $196 billion next year on

the war in Iraq. I have to tell the President: not a nickel more for

this war.

Since the beginning of this year, congressional Democrats have been

trying to change a war policy from one where our troops will stay there

for more than a decade, to one where we have a responsible redeployment

and bring the troops home next year. The President believes it's

acceptable to spend billions of dollars in Iraq, while important

domestic priorities here in our own country go unmet.

While the President was crafting his $196 billion war supplemental,

the Democratic House approved appropriations bills that included

targeted investments in our priorities here at home: education, health

care for veterans, more police on the streets, caring for American

families.

Madam Speaker, as Congress begins to examine the President's latest

war-funding bill, we will once again demand that the President change

course in Iraq and get a responsible plan to bring our troops home

within the year.