

Shays Floor Speech on the Rule for the Supplemental Funding Bill
March 23, 2007

Mr. Shays: I thank the gentleman for yielding his time. This closed rule only allows an up or down vote on the Democrat's proposal on needed military spending but requires a timeline for the withdrawal of troops and requires bloated spending for non-military expenditures. We want to do the right thing for Iraq and the Iraqi people. This bill does not give us the opportunity to do either.

I offered three amendments to the Rules Committee, and none were made in order, because they made no amendment in order.

One was to increase funding for our Community Action Programs in Iraq, like Mercy Corps, who hire Iraqis in their organizations and then the Iraqis are hired to do the work. A second amendment would have required the President to come in with a timeline and to then require the Iraqis to vote -- needing a 60% vote for his timeline or we leave sooner.

And the third was to encourage this Congress to debate the Iraqi Study Group recommendations, which both Republicans and Democrats agree with. We could have done something on a bipartisan basis.

We expect the Iraqis to work out their differences and are critical when the Sunnis and Shias are unable to find common ground. We in this Congress, Republicans and Democrats, are unable to work out our differences, and we don't even have to fear a bomb being blown off or an assassination attempt.

We went into Iraq on a bipartisan basis. Two-thirds of the House and three-quarters of the Senate voted to go in. It's absolutely imperative we get out of Iraq on a bipartisan basis. I encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to allow us to have a bipartisan approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.