

## (January 18, 2007) Legislators Weigh In on Bush's (Iraq) Speech

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The speech that President Bush made last week outlining the new plan he has for the war in Iraq, which includes sending 22,000 more troops to Baghdad to assist Iraqi forces, was not well received by local congressmen.

"President Bush asked for a surge in troop level, but what we need is a surge in truth level. The Bush Administration lied about weapons of mass destruction, lied about Iraq's ties to terrorism and 9-11, and lied about the "mission being accomplished" and that we were winning the war. We must ask the question, "Why are we in Iraq in the first place?," said Cong. Bobby Rush (D-1st) in a statement released after the speech.

"We don't want to further put our troops in harm's way with so many unanswered questions. The enthusiasm of the American people is not with the President's thinking and rightly so," added Rush.

Rush went on to say that people don't understand why Bush is talking about reconstruction in Iraq but not in their own districts, particularly the inner cities and rural areas of the United States.

"Charity starts at home, and the poor and disenfranchised of America need economic development, schools and jobs," said Rush.

He pointed to Republican efforts to thwart passage of the Democrat-sponsored Minimum Wage Bill that passed the House on the same day that Bush called for "sending more money to Iraq when money has already been loosely spent," said Rush.

The congressman said he has "been part of the congressional Get Out of Iraq Caucus because I believe we should get our troops out of Iraq and let the Iraqis deal with their own problems of governance."

Prior to the latest speech, Cong. Daniel Lipinski (D-3rd), said in a statement that Bush's "misadventure in Iraq might be the worst foreign policy disaster that the United States has ever been involved in."

"It is good that Saddam Hussein is out of power but it has come at an incredibly high price," said Lipinski, referring to the more than 3,000 U.S. soldiers killed and billions of dollars spent "and sometimes wasted" in the effort.

Lipinski said that Iraq should not be abandoned, but rather than the increase in troops that Bush has said is needed to end the rampant sectarian violence, Lipinski called for an "international conference" that would work on policy together and perhaps send a peacekeeping force to the region.

The congressman said the Iraqi government must be required to meet important goals regarding national recognition, security and governance.

He also wants the Bush administration to give Congress detailed reports on the situation in Iraq "so that informed decisions can be made regarding funding."

[http://www.swnewsherald.com/news\\_frontpage/2007/01/011807c\\_bush.php](http://www.swnewsherald.com/news_frontpage/2007/01/011807c_bush.php)