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PENCE CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ADDRESS BUSH'S SPENDING REQUEST

Washington, Sep 10, 2003 - Washington, D.C.— Congressman Mike Pence gave the following speech on the House floor today asking Congress to "thoughtfully and carefully" consider President Bush's request for $87 billion in additional spending for military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq:

"Mr. Speaker, Sunday night President Bush addressed the nation for the first time since the end of major combat in Iraq.

"He showed the world once again, as ever his determination, his tenacity to see this war through to its just conclusion to bring peace and independence and security and freedom to the people of Iraq.

"The President also called on this Congress in the next month to appropriate nearly ninety billion dollars in supplemental spending for military and reconstruction efforts. And so we should address that astonishing number thoughtfully and carefully as we are charged to do under the constitution.

"But I would offer two humble principles - number one our troops have every penny they need to get the job done and come home safe. It is time on the subject of reconstruction, Mr. Speaker, that we begin to ask our partners in the coalition of the willing to contribute their resources along with the American people to rebuilding Iraq."

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