

IRAQ HEARINGS DETAIL LITTLE POLITICAL PROGRESS...

The testimony by General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker yesterday and today made it clear that despite the “surge” that was intended to make political progress possible, very little such progress has been made. Petraeus and Crocker also had few answers about how they would change their strategy to encourage Iraq’s government to take responsibility for its nation and when a strategic redeployment of U.S. troops could be completed.

“Crocker was only able to tell Congress that the Iraqi government has been able to make marginal progress during the improved security climate provided by Petraeus' forces.” – *ABC News, 9/10/07*

“Both [Petraeus] and Crocker conceded the political progress the military surge was supposed to make possible has not occurred.” – *TIME, 9/10/07*

“Crocker... was only cautiously optimistic about Iraq's political future.” – *ABC News, 9/10/07*

...PROVIDE FEW ANSWERS TO TOUGHEST QUESTIONS...

“The assessment that Ryan C. Crocker... gave to Congress on Monday left unmentioned or glossed over some of the most troubling developments of the past nine months. His portrait of Iraq did not include many of the signs of deepening divisions between Sunni Arabs and Shiites and within each sect, which have raised fears among many Iraqis that their country will fracture further.” – *NY Times, 9/11/07*

“Nothing new was said, for example, on how the administration intends to try to break apart the governmental gridlock in Baghdad.” – *LA Times, 9/11/07*

“The Bush administration's top two officials in Iraq answered questions from Congress for more than six hours on Monday, but their testimony may have been as important for what they didn't say as for what they did.” – *McClatchy Newspapers, 9/11/07*

“[General Petraeus] offered a drawdown chart that had more question marks than dates.” – *Washington Post, 9/11/07*

...YET BUSH’S STRATEGY REMAINS THE SAME

MORE TIME:

“The process will not be quick... It will be uneven, punctuated by setbacks as well as achievements, and it will require substantial U.S. resolve and commitment.” – *Ambassador Crocker, 9/10/07*

MORE MONEY:

“Crocker said U.S. economic aid to Iraq, which had been in decline, would be broadened with a new infrastructure ‘trust fund’ and an ‘Iraqi-American Enterprise Fund’ to buy stock in new and reshaped Iraqi companies.” – *LA Times, 9/11/07*

MORE EXCUSES:

“Realism, Crocker suggested, means suspending demands that Iraq reach 18 political and security benchmarks that Congress has set for it -- few of which the Iraqis have achieved -- and accepting instead more modest forms of progress.” – *Washington Post, 9/11/07*

MORE OF THE SAME:

“The plans outlined by the U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David H. Petraeus, would retain a large force in the country -- perhaps more than 100,000 troops -- when the time comes for Bush to move out of the White House in January 2009.” – *LA Times, 9/11/07*

Prepared by the Office of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 9/11/07