

Bush Administration Belittled Suggestions War Would Be Costly

STEPHANOPOULOS: “What should the public know right now about what a war with Iraq would look like and what the cost would be?”

RUMSFELD: “...The Office of Management and Budget estimated it would be something under \$50 billion.”

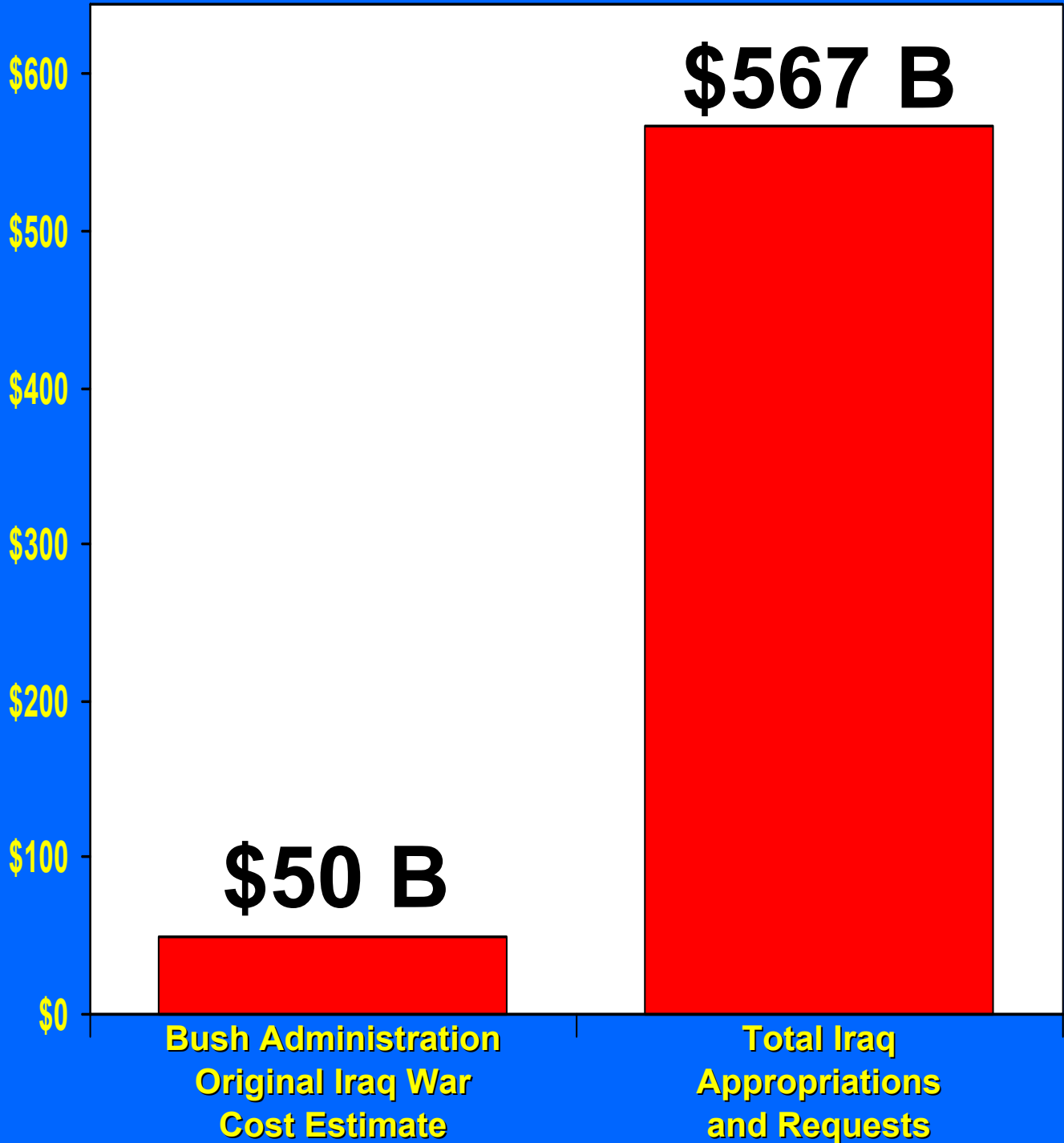
STEPHANOPOULOS: “Outside estimates say up to \$300 billion.”

RUMSFELD: “Baloney.”

— **Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
Interview on ABC’s “This Week with
George Stephanopoulos”
January 19, 2003**

Iraq War Costs Exceed Half a Trillion Dollars

(\$ in billions)



May 30, 2007

Bush Sees South Korea Model for Iraq

**Bush Sees Long-Term Presence in Iraq Similar to South Korea;
Troop Buildup Complete**

By Terrence Hunt

President Bush envisions a long-term U.S. troop presence in Iraq similar to the one in South Korea where American forces have helped keep an uneasy peace for more than 50 years, the White House said Wednesday.

...

Presidential spokesman Tony Snow said Bush has cited the long-term Korea analogy in looking at the U.S. role in Iraq, where American forces are in the fifth year of an unpopular war. Bush's goal is for Iraqi forces to take over the chief security responsibilities, relieving U.S. forces of frontline combat duty, Snow said.

...

The comparison with South Korea paints a picture of a lengthy U.S. commitment at a time when Americans have grown weary of the Iraq war and want U.S. troops to start coming home. Bush vetoed legislation that would set timetables for U.S. troop withdrawals, and forced Congress to approve a new bill stripped of troop pullout language.

‘Korea-Like’ Presence in Iraq Will Cost Trillions

Costs So Far (2003 – 2008)	\$567 B
Costs Projected for 2009 – 2017	\$1 T
Costs Projected for 2018 – 2057 Assuming ‘Korea-Like’ Presence	\$1 T
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Total	\$2.5 T

Source: CRS, CBO

NOTE: 2009-2017 costs include Afghanistan; 2018-2057 costs in constant FY' 08 dollars