

Bush meets with Dem/GOP leaders on Iraq

by UPI

WASHINGTON - U.S. President George W. Bush met Wednesday with Congressional leaders to discuss funding for the war in Iraq.

Bush, in a statement before the meeting, acknowledged the "strong opinions" he faces from those at the table.

"We're going to have a very good discussion," Bush said. "People have strong opinions around the table, and I'm looking forward to listening to them."

The president said the objective is to "figure out how best to get our troops funded, get the money they need to do the job that I've asked them to do."

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said Bush will not accept a bill that has an "artificial timetable" for withdrawal.

"He's not going to do that for our troops, and he's not going to do it to the Iraqis, or for the region, and for the safety of the American public," said Perino.

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