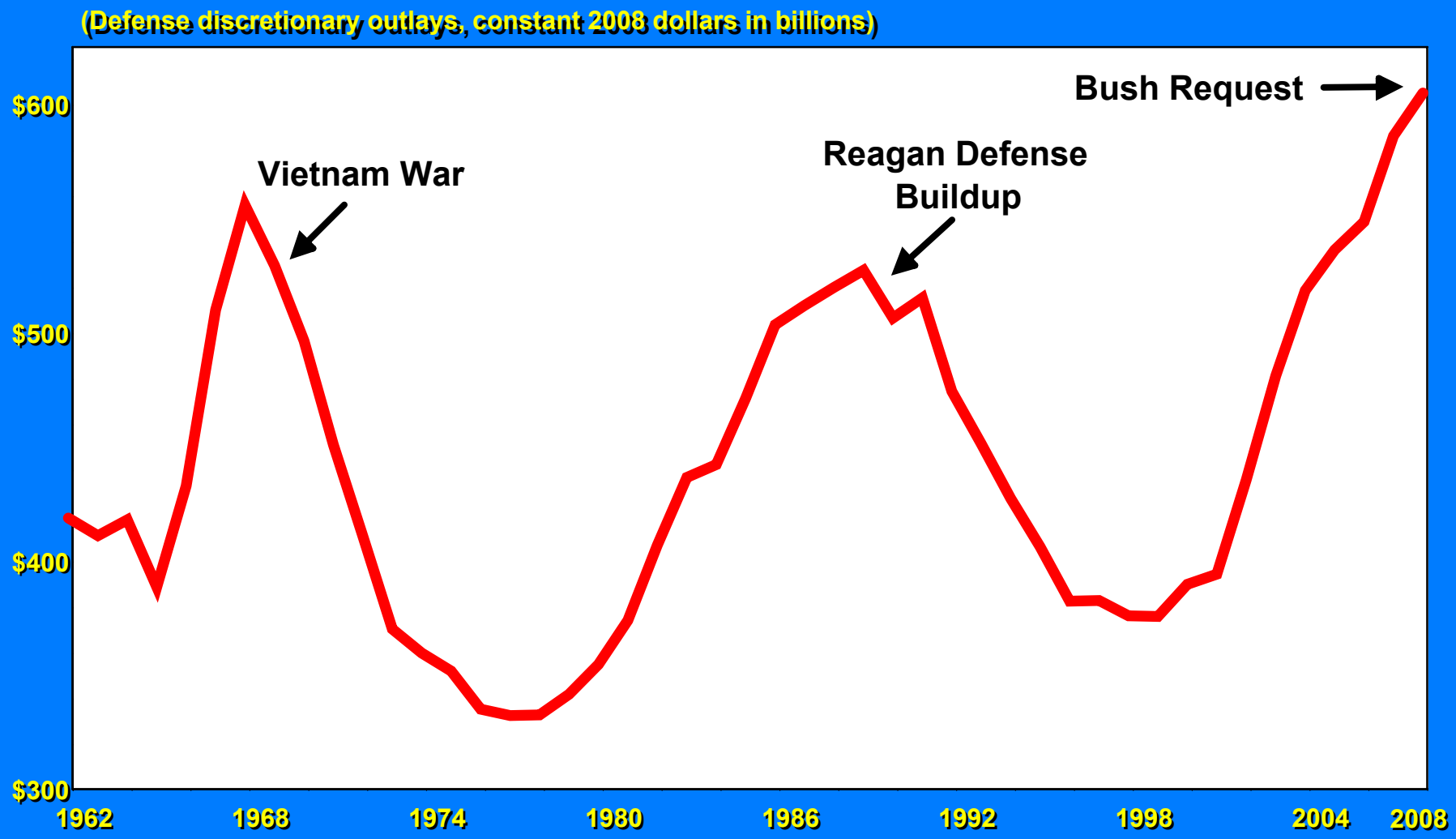
Secretary Gates on the President's Defense Budget Requests

"The truth is they represent a staggering amount of money."

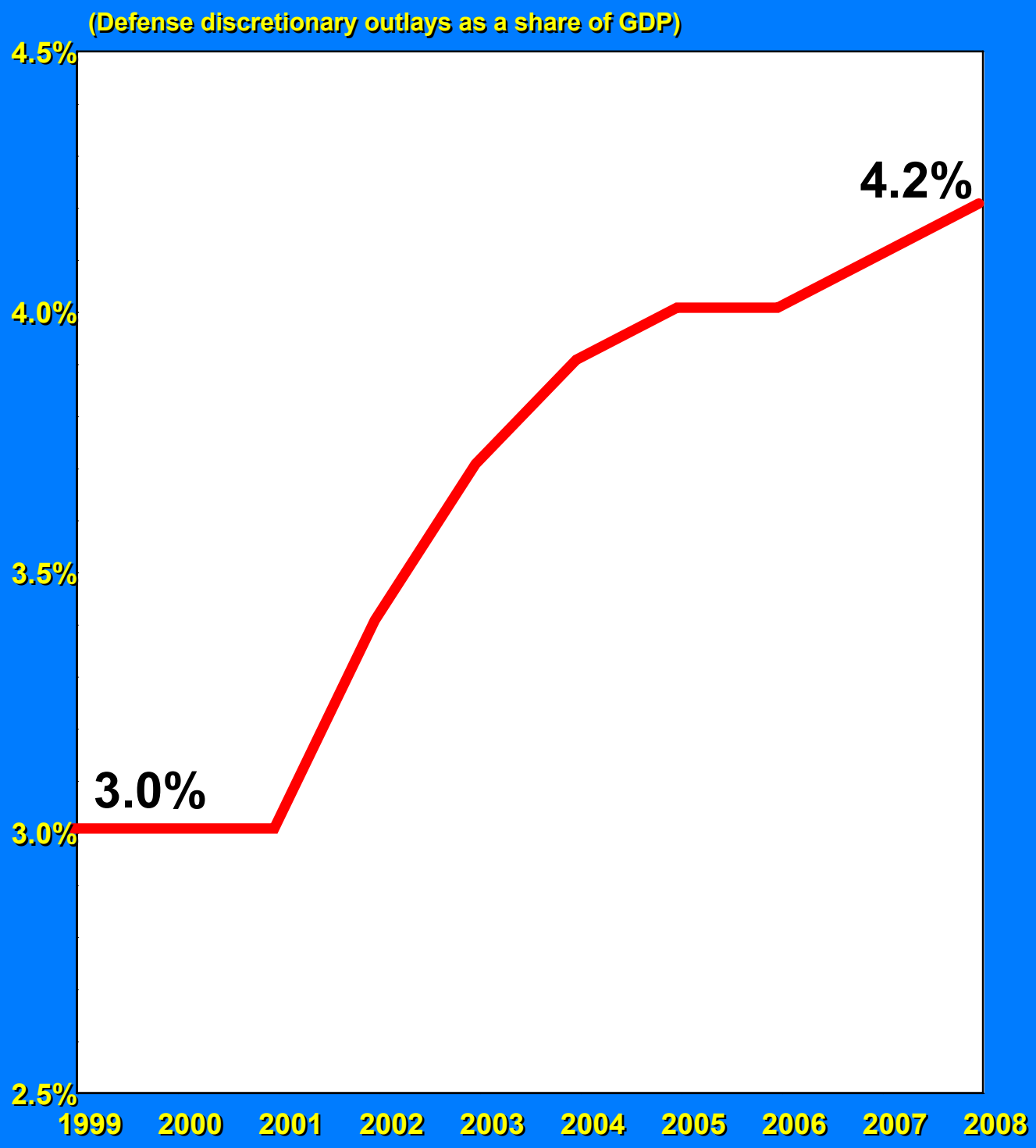
–Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee
February 7, 2007

Defense Spending Exceeds Cold War Peak



Source: OMB

Defense Rising Rapidly as Share of GDP



Source: OMB

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?"

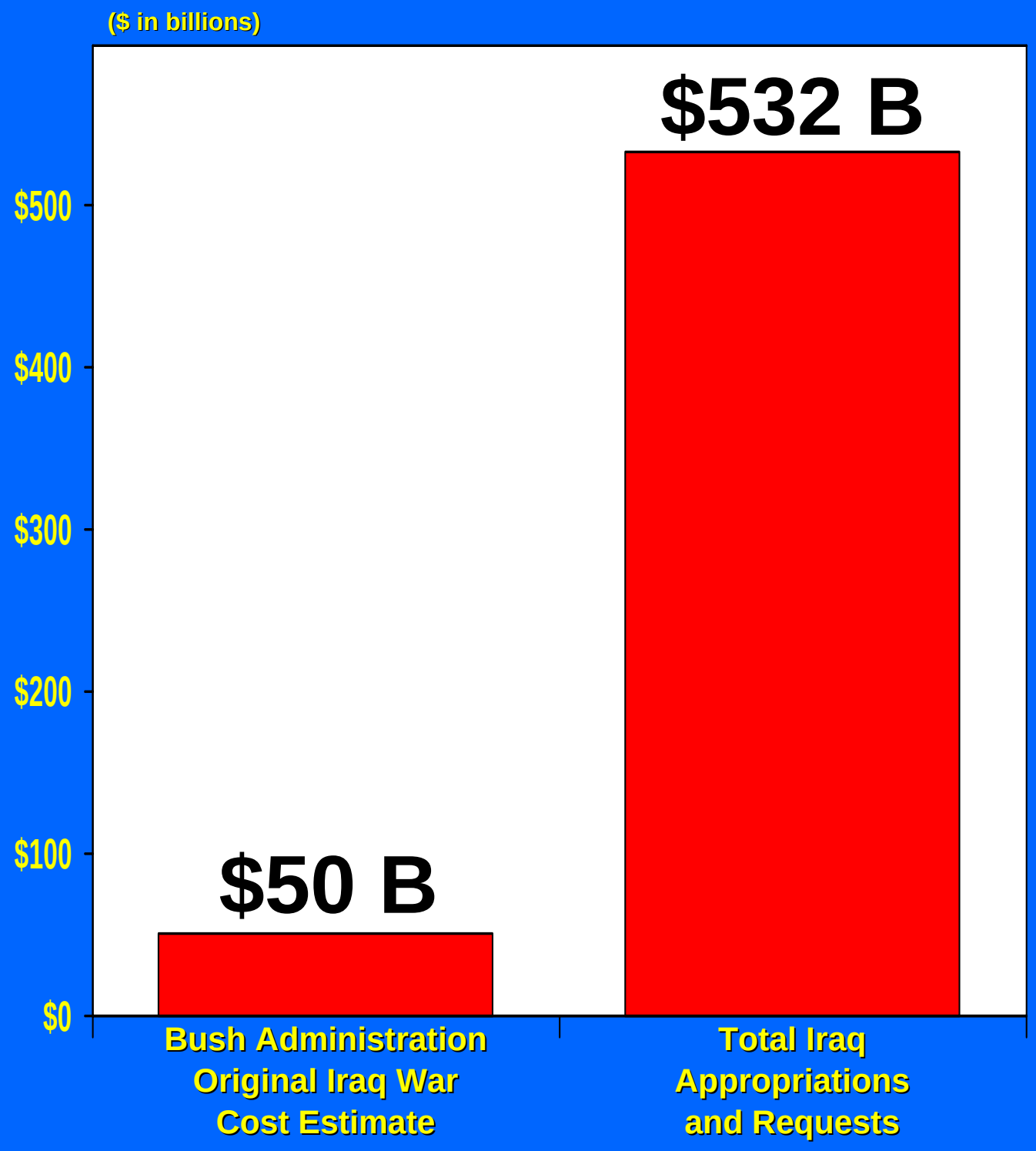
RUMSFELD: "...The Office of Management and Budget estimated it would be something under $50 billion."

STEPHANOPOULOS: "Outside estimates say up to $300 billion."

RUMSFELD: "Baloney."

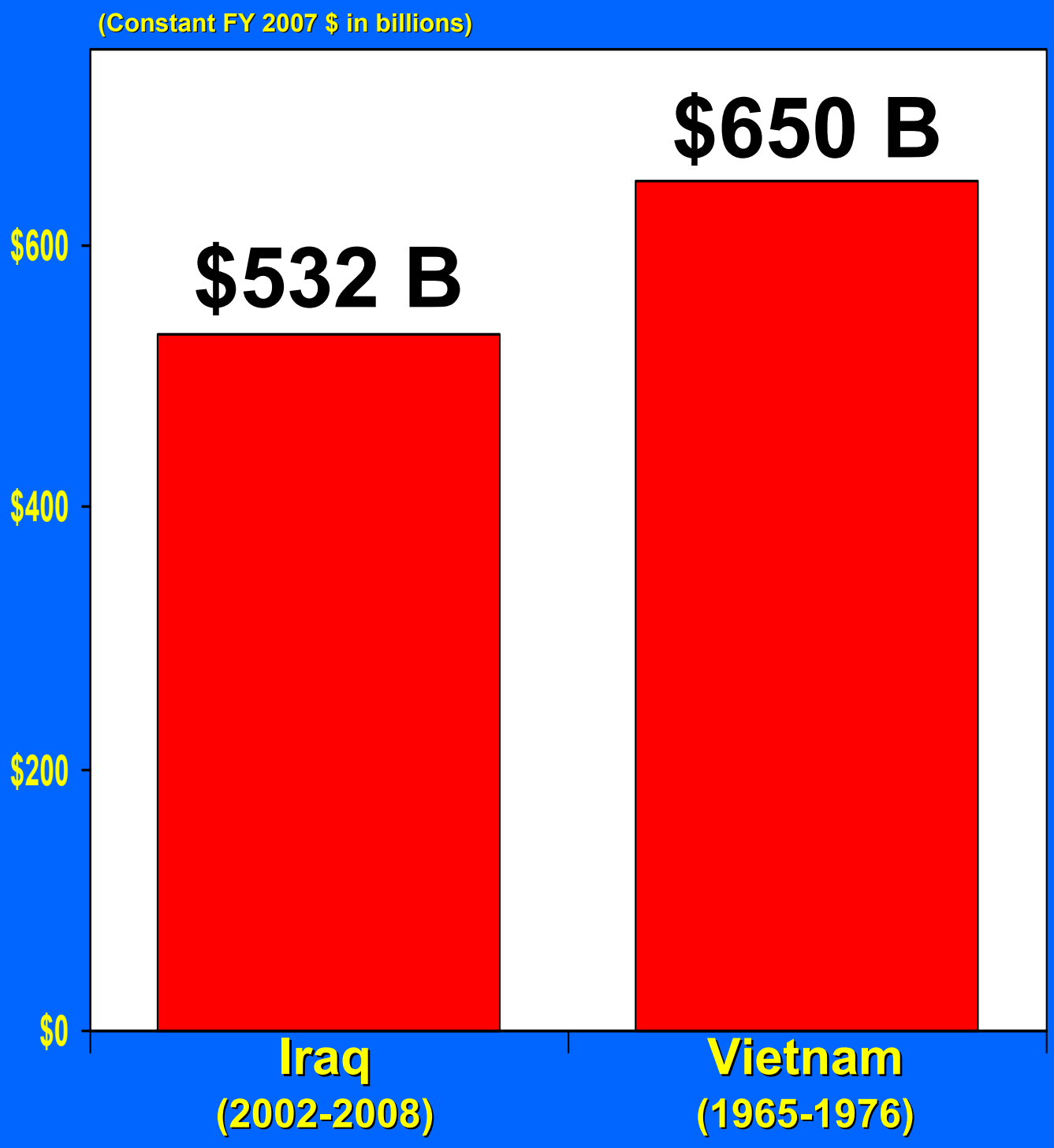
– Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
Interview on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos"
January 19, 2003

Iraq War Costs Exceed Half a Trillion Dollars



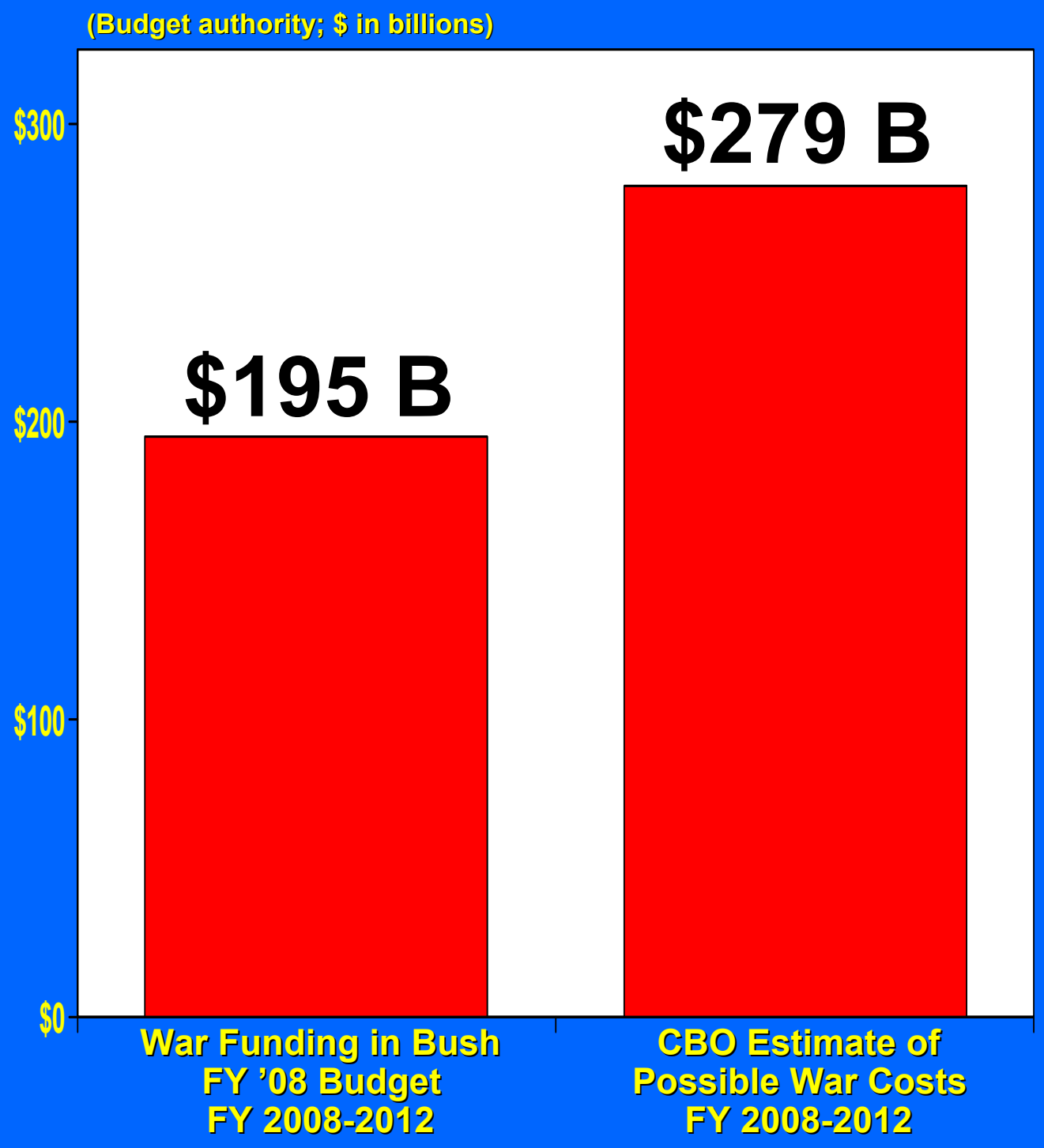
Source: OMB, CBO, and SBC Democratic staff

Iraq War Approaching Cost of Vietnam War



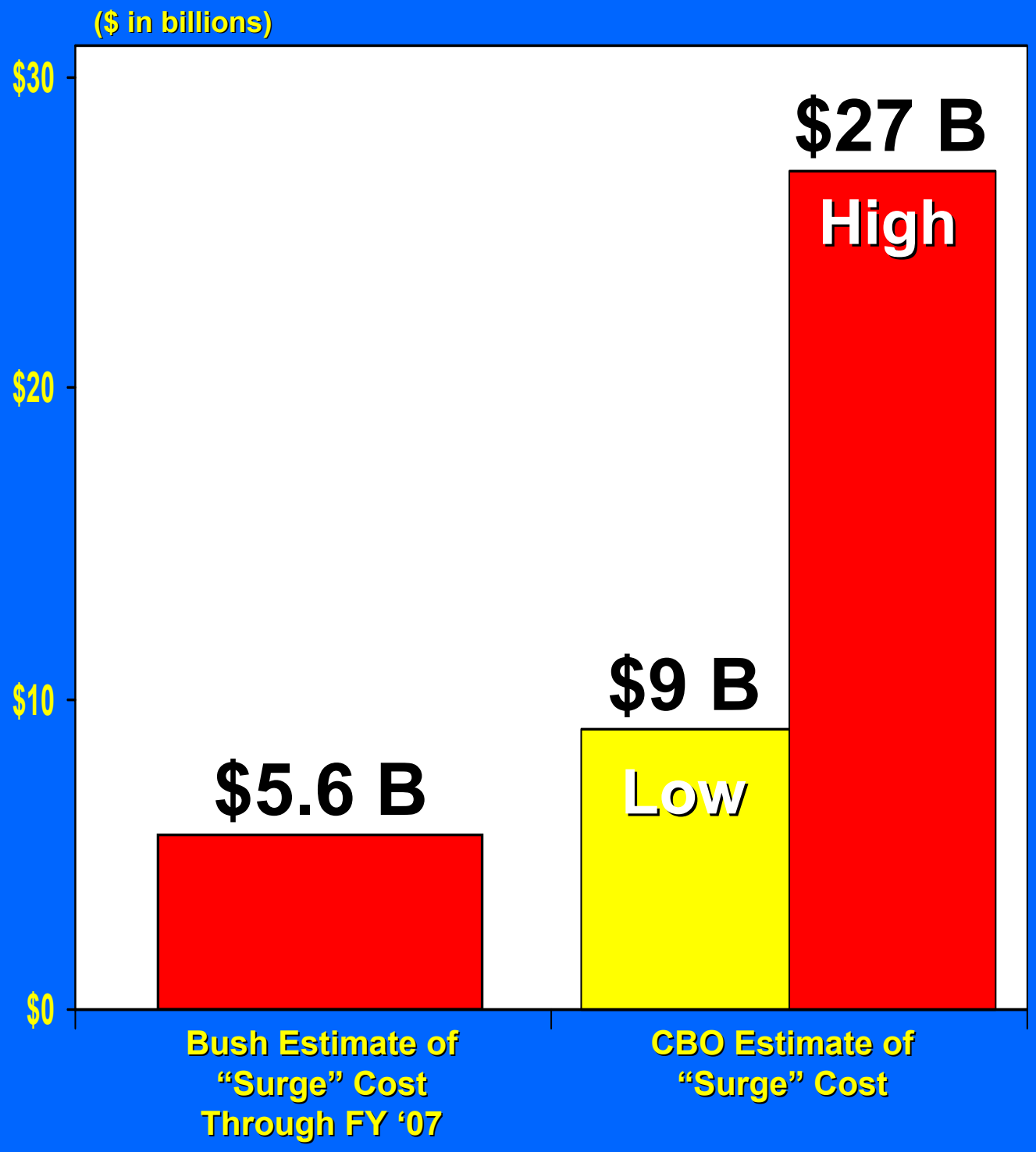
Source: CBO, CRS, and SBC Democratic staff

Bush Still Understating Likely Ongoing War Costs



Source: OMB, CBO

Bush Understates "Surge" Cost



Source: White House, CBO
Note: CBO estimate of 12-month peak deployment cost for an additional 48,000 troops.