Mr. Speaker, I had intended to rise this evening to

focus my attention on the suicide bombing last week in Baghdad that

killed and wounded several members of the Parliament, including Osama

al-Nujafii. He was a member of the Iraq Parliament who participated in

a historic live teleconference I hosted last month linking several of

my House colleagues with several Iraq Parliamentarians. I wish him and

the others wounded in the attack a speedy recovery.

That attack occurred inside the Green Zone, and it confirms that no

one is safe in Iraq, no matter how many checkpoints or blast walls or

press releases out of the White House. It confirms that the President's

military escalation has only escalated the violence and the casualties.

It confirms that the President has no control whatsoever on the events

on the ground. And it confirms that the American people are right to

demand that the President work with the Democratic Congress and

establish a firm timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

For now, most Americans are grimly aware of the weekend of bombings

and killings across Iraq. But the situation is even worse. The Iraq war

will live long after the U.S. forces leave the country.

As a child psychiatrist, I was shocked to learn of a new study

looking at the effects this war is having on Iraqi children. I submit

the story from USA Today for the Record. It is the first comprehensive

look at the impact the war is having on innocent Iraqi children. The

Ministry of Health surveyed 2,500 primary school kids in Baghdad, and

70 percent of those young kids displayed symptoms of trauma-related

stress. As the USA Today reported, many Iraqi children have been

physically wounded, and many are psychologically scarred. They are the

uncounted casualties of the Iraq war. Thousands of innocent Iraqi

children

are uncounted casualties. But for all these innocent Iraqi children,

this war will rage on for them for years to come. They will face a life

of anguish, and, in fact, will be the ones who, in the future, are the

future violent ones we worry about.

For all these innocent Iraqi children, this war will rage on for

years to come. In some cases, these children will face a lifetime of

anguish and suffering, and not one of these children is being counted

as a casualty.

These children routinely walk through carnage on their way to school,

when they go at all.

These children are routinely exposed to random violence and killings

that burn images in their minds that will scar them for life.

As a child psychiatrist, I can only echo the conclusions of one Iraqi

doctor who was interviewed by USA Today.

said Said al-Hashimi, a

psychiatrist who teaches at an Iraqi Medical School.

In this excerpt from USA Today, al-Hashimi said he is concerned Iraqi

children could become the next generation of fighters and fuel violence

for years to come.

Because of what they are living through as youngsters, ``they may

think it's better to martyr themselves for religion or country,'' al-

Hashimi said.

The only hope for these uncounted casualties is treatment.

But, as the USA Today story points out, there is only one government

run psychiatric hospital in Baghdad--a city of 6 million people, or put

more accurately, a city of 6 million casualties.

And then there are the uncounted casualties of Iraqi children in

Basra, Rumadi, Najaf, Karbala, Mosul, Kirkuk, Fallujah, Baqubah, and

all the other places Iraqi children live.

Until the war ends, there is virtually no chance that thousands of

innocent Iraqi children will be treated for their war wounds.

We can only estimate how many thousands of Iraqi children need urgent

psychological attention. We know they are not going to get it until

this war ends.

There is a timetable for doing just that, and the President should

stop listening to his discredited Vice President and start listening to

reason and reality.

Now, in the face of that, our Speaker has led this Congress to set a

time line that the President says, I will ignore. The President said, I

will ignore the people, I will ignore the vote of 2006. No matter what

the Speaker does, I am going to attack her.

So the Speaker took the Iraq Study Group's book that said we ought to

talk to the people in Syria. For those of you who don't know, Syria is

right up next to Iraq. And it is on the border. And there are

Presidential accusations that people are coming in from Syria into

Iraq, creating trouble and killing our troops. This is on its way to

being the most deadly month in 5 years.

Now, for the Speaker to take her time and carefully plan and go over

and talk to the leadership of Syria about attacks being made on

Americans is, in my view, it is part of her legislative responsibility

to the people, not only of her district, but the entire country. And

for someone to come out here and accuse her of a violation of the Logan

Act. Now this is a 200-year-old act that no one has ever been

prosecuted under because there are real questions as to whether it

prevents Members of the Congress from using their first amendment

rights to talk out on behalf of the people that they represent.

In 1980, the State Department maintained that a visit to Cuba by

Senators John Sparkman and George McGovern was not inconsistent with

the Logan Act. Nothing in the act, they said, ``would appear to

restrict Members of Congress from engaging in discussions in pursuance

of their legislative duties under the Constitution.''

In 1976 the State Department was asked to weigh in as to whether

former President Nixon violated the Logan Act by visiting China. The

Department stated that Mr. Nixon's trip was taken entirely in his

capacity as a private citizen and that the Department ``was unaware of

any basis for believing Mr. Nixon acted with intent prohibited'' by the

act. The Department has noted that no one has ever been prosecuted

under this act.

This kind of attack on the Speaker will be answered in full again and

again. Make no mistake about that.

The article previously referred to follows: