Mr. Speaker, we have just heard from two giants of this

body, men that we are all very, very proud of. If we had any sense, we

would all sit down right now and take the vote; and I will give up my

time if everybody else will give up theirs, and we will vote. I am told

no, that is not going to work.

So let me try to be brief. Both of these gentlemen expressed the

conflicting views in a most sincere way, and I think we respect both of

them.

But, Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in opposition to H. Res. 571. I

want us to withdraw the moment the job is done, and that is what our

troops are telling us, too. They want to stay there until it is done.

That is what most of the Iraqi people tell us, do not leave us until it

is done.

Mr. Speaker, there are some out there insisting that the mission on

Iraq has been a failure, and our presence in Iraq has not been properly

run, and we are not winning the peace. Frankly, I do not think that is

true, and it only serves to lower the morale of the men and women

fighting in Iraq while encouraging the terrorists who hate America.

The fact is those who assert that the Iraq policy is failing frankly

fail to recognize the many successes that have occurred on a daily

basis over there. What we are talking about is fighting terror and

liberating a people. Look at just the political successes. They have

had two elections, and those two elections, most of those people had

never voted in a free election in their entire lives. On October 15,

they adopted a Constitution. They did not know what a Constitution was,

and 78 percent of the voters backed the charter of the Constitution.

We are making enormous progress toward liberty and democracy for the

Iraqi people, and by extension the people of the Middle East. I say

thank you, troops, for what you are doing. We love you, and we are

going to be with you until the job is done.