Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 571 completely dishonors

our troops by politicizing an issue that deserves careful deliberation.

The GOP leadership of this body has brought this counterfeit

legislation to the floor not to benefit our brave men and women in

uniform, but to score cheap political points.

I fully support legitimate initiatives which present a thoughtful

strategy for withdrawing our troops from Iraq in a manner that secures

their safety and Iraq's future. I am a cosponsor of two resolutions

which would support this urgent objective. Yet this phony bill chooses

politics over policy at the expense of real debate on a critical

national issue.

Over 2,000 troops have been killed and over 15,500 have been

seriously wounded. Reports indicate that at least 30,000 Iraqi

civilians have lost their lives due to this conflict. It is a sad day

for this country when, in response to this crucial issue, the best the

GOP leadership can do is resort to backhanded political stunts.