Madam Speaker, back in January, a number of Members of

the House voted against a surge in Iraq which the President had

promoted. Well, although that vote passed the House, it failed in the

Senate, and we know the surge did take place and the surge has paid

off. Civilian casualties in Iraq are down 20 percent; 75 percent in

Baghdad. IED attacks are down by 50 percent, and we've nearly doubled

the number of weapon caches that have been discovered this year from

last year. Lots of good progress has been made.

And I don't blame the folks who are against Iraq for pushing the bill

back in January that they did. I believe that there's plenty of room

for honest disagreement on this war. But at the same time, here we are

now and we need to continue funding for that war. There is a $50

billion bridge fund. The President actually has asked Congress for $196

billion, but Congress has indicated $50 billion is all that we're

willing to go at this point. But then there are some stipulations, some

micromanagement of the war.

I hope that we can have this bill on the floor of the House and have

an honest debate on it and keep the spirit of agreeing to disagree

agreeably.