Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may

consume.

Mr. Chairman, on the surface of this amendment, it is sort of

interesting, because none of us want to see any money wasted or any

money spent improperly. The problem that we have here, Mr. Chairman, is

that we just got a copy of this amendment late last night and other

Members only got it this morning. This could have very far reaching

effects, not only on future contracts, but on existing contracts. And I

would hate to see the logistical flow of supplies to our troops in the

field interrupted because of this amendment.

Frankly, I was tempted to accept the amendment, but having thought

about it, we just really have not had time to know exactly what the

effect is going to be. So I rise to oppose the amendment and I would be

happy to work with the gentleman as we proceed through this bill or the

regular defense bill to try to work with him to accomplish what he

wants, but we need to know what it is that this amendment does and it

is a little bit complicated.

Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of the

time.

I would like to say that this is not about a particular company. This

is about a policy change, a policy change that we have not had any

opportunity to review, with no hearings. We only learned about this

amendment late last night, and it is a policy that should not be

changed here on the floor without the benefit of some backup hearings

and actual review.

Like I said, it sounds like a good idea; but we have just got to be

sure. We do not want to interrupt the logistical flow of what our

troops need to carry out their mission. There is a major mission under

way in Iraq as we speak, Operation Swarmer, and it is the biggest air

operation since the war started. We cannot afford to upset an ongoing

operation like that.

We have got to support our troops, and if a policy change like this

has a negative effect, that is just not good. It is not good for our

troops. So I would hope we would oppose this amendment.