Mr. Chairman I thank the gentleman for yielding me

time. I rise in support of the Waxman-Dingell amendment which is about

waste, fraud and abuse. That is it. And this is the full extent of the

amendment, eight lines, very simple.

All it says is that none of the funds appropriated or made available

by this Act shall be obligated or expended by the Secretary of the Army

to any contractor if the Defense Contract Audit Agency has determined

that more than $100 million of the contractor's costs for contracts

involving work in Iraq under one or more Army contracts were

unreasonable.

So we have set up a process to get rid of waste, fraud and abuse. How

long does it take to figure that out?

I cannot imagine that anybody in this body wants to fund waste, fraud

and abuse, particularly in excess of $100 million. That is what this is

about.

Last June, Congressman Waxman released a report documenting a

stunning $1.4 billion in questioned and unsupported charges by

Halliburton in Iraq. Don't we want to know about that?

Last month, The New York Times reported that the Bush administration

ignored 97 percent of the recommendations made by Pentagon auditors and

awarded Halliburton over $250 million under its Iraq oil contract. And

just last week, a Federal jury found that another firm, Custer Battles,

defrauded the government by millions of dollars under just one of its

Iraq contracts.

So how does this Congress justify ignoring blatant stealing? Do we

not all want to get at that? I mean, too many of our soldiers have been

asked to do without proper body armor and equipment, and they come home

to reduced benefits, and this Congress has found it easy enough to say

no to our soldiers; and yet every single time we have been able to say

yes to Halliburton.

Is it not time that all of us agree that it is wrong to have this

kind of waste, fraud and abuse and to pass this simple amendment?

I urge a ``yes'' vote.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to cosponsor the Lee

amendment to prohibit any funds from the supplemental from being used

to enter into a basing rights agreement between the United States and

Iraq. It is clear that the Iraqis, Shiites and Sunnis alike, in

overwhelming numbers, do not want us to stay there. And the Secretary

of Defense has said that there are no plans or discussions under way to

have permanent bases in that country. So this would codify that. This

would make sure that that is true.

And yet it has been suggested by top military leaders, including

General John Abizaid, as recently as this week, that the United States

may want to keep a long-term military presence in Iraq. If true, this

is a scheme fraught with danger. As anyone knows that watches

television or reads the paper, the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq has

been a powerful recruiting tool for the Iraqi insurgency. And General

George Casey has agreed with that, saying that by getting our troops

out of there that we would take away one of the elements that fuels the

insurgency. Please support this amendment. It is good for our troops

and good for our country and theirs.