Mr. Chairman, in December 2004, I requested the

Congressional Research Service to compile a report on military

construction in both Iraq and Afghanistan. On April 11, 2005, I

received the final report. Here is what it said: the Congressional

Research Service found projects that suggest a longer term U.S.

presence in Iraq. These included $214 million for the Balad Air Base

and $49 million for the Taji military complex.

This is the first congressional report that identified specific

locations in Iraq where the U.S. is possibly constructing a permanent

military presence in Iraq. At the appropriate time, I will enter this

in the Record.

Now I want to know, did anyone here vote to establish permanent bases

in Iraq when they voted to invade that country? Did anyone here vote to

send U.S. troops permanently to Iraq? Weren't we going to war on the

belief Iraq had weapons of mass destruction? Weren't we going to war on

the belief that Iraq was an imminent threat of a mushroom cloud the

administration warned about? All that proved to be false. If the

President had told you he wanted to spend over $300 billion and 2,300

American lives, plus tens of thousands of maimed service members to

build new military bases, permanent deployment of U.S. troops in the

Mesopotamian Valley, would anyone here have supported that? I don't

think so.

That is why this administration had to fabricate a pretense for the

invasion, and that is why you have to support the Lee amendment today.

Do not allow this ill-conceived war to lead to a permanent deployment

of troops in Iraq. Bring them home. Close down those bases.