Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from the

Appropriations Committee and my good friend from California. I want my

colleagues to consider some facts.

One is with this amendment that we will have now spent as much as we

did in the entire Vietnam War. Does anybody think that that $400

billion was well spent in retrospect? Consider the fact that 82 percent

of the Sunnis and 69 percent of the Shi'a want us to withdraw

immediately. In fact, the majority say that our presence is hurting

rather than helping Iraq's future. Consider what happened when the

British concluded their occupation.

The first people the Iraqis went after were those who cooperated with

the British, considering them collaborators. Then they went after the

foreigners that were trying to exploit the situation. We have a

responsibility to get those foreign terrorists, al-Zarqawi and all of

the al-Qaeda.

But the Iraqi people were never a threat to the United States. They

are not now. Let us work with the Iraqis, get rid of the foreign

terrorists, but not establish any permanent bases in Iraq.