Mr. Speaker, I will be voting for the resolution

today because I agree with its praise of our troops in Iraq, who under

difficult circumstances continue to display high standards and

professionalism during the occupation and rebuilding of Iraq.

However, I am very disappointed in the resolution and will vote for

it with reservations. The primary purpose of the resolution should have

been to deplore any abuses which have occurred while prisoners are in

U.S. custody, and to demand swift prosecution of those who committed

illegal or unethical acts, including those responsible in the military

chain of command. Atrocities in the Abu Ghraib prison, and anywhere

else they may have been committed, must be thoroughly and openly

addressed through congressional investigations. These investigations

must also include the conduct of American contractors who had a role in

overseeing prisoners. Irresponsibly, these important points are left

out of the resolution the House is considering today.

The recent abuse of prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison is not only

disgraceful, it is damaging to the interests of the United States, and

ultimately it endangers our men and women in uniform not just in Iraq

but around the world. We must act quickly to convince the court of

world opinion that the American people do not tolerate illegal or

unethical conduct by Americans and will take the necessary steps to

stop it and prevent it from happening again.