Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein is dead. So are 3,000

Americans. The regime in Iraq has been changed; yet victory will not be

declared. Not only does the war go on; it is about to escalate.

Obviously, the turmoil in Iraq is worse than ever and most Americans no

longer are willing to tolerate the costs, both human and economic,

associated with this war.

We have been in Iraq for 45 months. Many more Americans have been

killed in Iraq than were killed in the first 45 months in Vietnam. I

was in the U.S. Air Force in 1965, and I remember well when President

Johnson announced a troop surge in Vietnam to hasten victory. That war

went on for another decade. And by the time we finally finished that

war and got out, 60,000 Americans had died. We obviously should have

gotten out 10 years sooner. Troop surge then meant serious escalation.

The election is over and Americans have spoken: enough is enough.

They want the war ended and our troops brought home. But the opposite

is likely to occur. With bipartisan support, up to 50,000 troops may

well be sent. The goal no longer is to win. Now it is simply to secure

Baghdad. So much has been spent with so little to show for it.

Who possibly benefits from escalating chaos in Iraq? Neoconservatives

unabashedly have written about how chaos presents opportunities for

promoting their goals. Certainly Osama bin Laden has benefited from the

turmoil in Iraq, as have Iranian Shiites who are now in a better

position to take control of southern Iraq.

Yes, Saddam Hussein is dead, and only Sunnis mourn. The Shiites and

Kurds celebrate his death, as do the Iranians and especially bin Laden,

all enemies of Saddam Hussein. We have performed a tremendous service

for both bin Laden and Ahmadinejad, and it will cost us plenty. The

violent reaction to our complicity in the execution of Saddam Hussein

is yet to come.

Three thousand American military personnel are dead. More than 22,000

are wounded, and tens of thousands will be psychologically traumatized

by their tours of duty in Iraq. Little concern is given to the hundreds

of thousands of Iraqi civilians killed in this war. We have spent $400

billion so far with no end in sight. This money we do not have. It is

all borrowed from countries like China that increasingly succeed in the

global economy while we drain wealth from our citizens through heavy

taxation and insidious inflation. Our manufacturing base is now nearly

extinct. Where the additional U.S. troops in Iraq will come from is

anybody's guess, but surely they won't be redeployed from Japan, Korea,

or Europe.

We at least must pretend that our bankrupt empire is intact, but then

again, the Soviet empire appeared intact in 1988. Some Members of

Congress intent on equitably distributing the suffering among all

Americans want to bring back the draft. Administration officials

vehemently deny making any concrete plans for a draft.

But why should we believe this? Look what happened when so many

believed the reasons given for our preemptive invasion of Iraq.

Selective Service officials admit running a check of their list of

available young men. If the draft is reinstated, we probably will

include young women as well to serve the God of equality. Conscription

is slavery, plain and simple, and it was made illegal under the 13th

amendment, which prohibits involuntary servitude. One may well be

killed as a military draftee, which makes conscription a very dangerous

kind of enslavement.

Instead of testing the efficacy of the Selective Service System and

sending more troops off to a war that we are losing, we ought to revive

our love of liberty. We should repeal the Selective Service Act. A free

society should never depend on compulsory conscription to defend

itself.

We get into trouble by not following the precepts of liberty or

obeying the rule of law. Preemptive, undeclared wars fought under false

pretenses are a road to disaster. If a full declaration of war by

Congress had been demanded as the Constitution requires, this war never

would have been fought.

If we did not create credit out of thin air, as the Constitution

prohibits, we never would have convinced taxpayers to support this war

directly by increased taxation. How long this financial charade can go

on is difficult to judge, but when the end comes, it will not go

unnoticed by any American.