Madam Speaker, the easiest thing in the world to do is to

spend other people's money. And it never ceases to amaze how the

Federal bureaucracy can rationalize or justify the most wasteful or

ridiculous expenditures. But the lavish new embassy we are building in

Baghdad and the staffing and expenses for it will just about take the

cake.

Here is part of a recent Fox News report:

But the barely finished

U.S. Embassy in Baghdad is already prime for expansion.

Due for completion in September, the $592 million campus is

surrounded by concrete blast walls and features green grass gardens,

palm-lined avenues, and volleyball and basketball courts. Available to

embassy employees are a PX, commissary, cinema, retail and shopping

areas, restaurants, schools, a fire station, power and water treatment

facilities, a swimming pool, a recreation center, and the ambassador's

and deputy ambassador's residences.

And with months still to pass before it opens, Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice told a Senate subcommittee in May that additional

staffing and housing needs have forced officials to add more structures

to the now 21-building site. She asked for an additional $50 million

from Congress to make that happen. In other words, almost $600 million

is not enough. Then the budget for 2006 for the employees was $923

million, not including salaries and expenses for about 600 employees

from other Federal agencies and departments than the State Department.

To a recent story from The Washington Post:

Secretary Eagleburger said,

And Secretary

Eagleburger was reacting to a staffing level of 1,000, twice the size

and 20 to 30 times the budgets we have at our embassies in China,

Mexico and Britain.

The Post story quoted a senior State Department official as saying,

The story also said that counting

contractors and Iraqi employees, the staff actually is not 1,000, but a

staggering and astounding 4,000.

Madam Speaker, I know that many people in our Federal Government want

to think of themselves as world statesmen and to feel real important,

but it is both unconstitutional and unaffordable for the U.S. to try to

govern or police the whole world. And all this certainly goes against

every traditional conservative position I have ever known.

Above all, what we are doing building this Taj Mahal industry in

Baghdad and allowing an almost $1 billion budget to operate is as far

from fiscal conservatism as you can get.

And finally, Madam Speaker, because a previous speaker mentioned

General Petraeus's report, let me add this: There is a very important

reason why our Founding Fathers, and throughout the history of this

Nation our leaders, have always believed in civilian control over the

military. The admirals and generals will almost always give positive or

optimistic reports saying progress is being made. We have received

positive reports from our top military leaders all through the war in

Iraq. It is almost like the generals saying they're doing a bad job if

their reports are not positive.

Madam Speaker, we should admire, respect and appreciate our military,

and I certainly do. But we should not worship them or feel it is

somehow unpatriotic to ever criticize any Pentagon waste or any

decision a general might make.