Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for recognizing me at the

time shortly after my colleague Lynn Woolsey has spoken, because I rise

to salute Lynn Woolsey as a great point of inspiration to her

colleagues and for all Americans who are fighting to end the deadly,

wasteful war in Iraq.

I rise at this particular time because yesterday was Primary Day in

California, and Congresswoman Woolsey had a challenge. I do not think

that challenge was unrelated to her position on the war in Iraq. I

think the challenge was a frontal attack on the majority of Americans

who now disapprove of this administration's actions in Iraq. I think

that the candidacy of the opposition was a not-very-subtle attempt to

intimidate the leading spokesperson of the peace movement. I think it

was a blatant effort to send a message.

Congresswoman Woolsey is supported, fortunately, by the constituents

in her district. Everybody knows that. Congresswoman Woolsey has been

here for 14 years. She has a great record in areas ranging from child

care to policies related to the war in Iraq.

I want to congratulate her on a stunning, decisive victory. There was

never any doubt of her winning, but she swept the field, I think with

almost a two-to-one vote.

The voters sent a message to all those who would challenge her and

try to silence her that they care about what is happening in the world,

they care about what is happening in Iraq. They are the majority, just

as right now the majority of the people in America are against the war

in Iraq. Her wide margin reaffirms support for her positions.

No one has spoken more passionately and consistently against the war

on this floor than Lynn Woolsey. I think she has a record of floor

speeches, 5-minute speeches. About 149 5-minute speeches have been made

against the war in Iraq.

The bold move of the war supporters to go after her, to get

newspapers to call her a radical and clamor for a more moderate voice,

all of these things did not happen by accident. I think it was a plot.

In her 14 years, Lynn Woolsey has earned the right not to be

challenged. She has a unique point of view based on her unique set of

experiences. I serve with her on the Education Committee. There is much

to be discussed about Iraq and the war in Iraq, and not enough time is

ever allowed to do it. I think she has chosen the only avenue possible.

We have not discussed very important matters, like the oil contracts.

What is happening with the plan to dispense the oil in Iraq after the

U.S. leaves? Nobody ever talks about that. How much of the oil revenue

will flow to American corporations for technical assistance and

rebuilding versus to the Iraqi people?

Underlying the problem of getting the settlement, the question is

never discussed. Power sharing is discussed. Getting the government set

up is discussed.

Senator Biden was ridiculed for saying you ought to take Iraq and

split it up into three parts, one for Sunnis, one for the Shiites and

one for the Kurds. I do not think that general proposal is all he

meant, but power sharing is a major issue. Why can't we discuss power

sharing. We have the Voting Rights Act here in America, one of the best

examples of power sharing in the world.

Other nations are looking at us and trying to find out how do you

have a minority represented when the majority is a very different

group. How can you get the minority to the table? There are ways to do

that, and power-sharing ought to be discussed openly. Maybe they need a

Voting Rights Act in Iraq. That could be put on the table as part of

the solution to guarantee to the Sunnis and that Kurds that despite the

Shiites being in the majority, they will always have a place at the

table.

As far as orderly withdrawal of the troops, I think Congressman

Murtha, an expert if there ever was one, a man who knows the military

very well, has proposed a very conservative but effective way to draw

down the troops. Nobody knows better than Congressman Murtha what is

happening in that war. He goes frequently to visit the wounded at

Walter Reed Hospital and at the Naval Hospital. He knows the dilemma of

the men on the ground, the troops there. He knows and that is why he

spoke out so forcefully about the situation in Haditha. He knows that

under

pressure, people will break. The best Marines and the best Army people

and the best Navy people will break under pressure in a war that they

think is useless.

We might have had the favor of the Iraqi people when we went in

there, we might have had some flag waving and had some people that

appreciated us, but we took away their electricity, we took away their

water, and we took away their safety so there is a lot to be discussed

and we should all value Lynn Woolsey for the fact that she comes

frequently to discuss Iraq on this floor and does a great service for

the Iraq people, as well as for the Members of this House.