Mr. Speaker, I come this evening to share information

that I think the American public must know and understand about what is

going on in the Congress of the United States of America and what is

going on with this war in Iraq. It is important that I do that this

evening because tomorrow there will be on the floor of Congress a so-

called debate. But it is a sham debate. This is a debate formed around

a resolution, H. Res. 861, that the Republicans have put together in an

attempt, one more time, to fool the American people about what they are

doing. This resolution was dreamed up after the Republicans determined

that the polls were consistently against the way this war is being

managed. This resolution was put together after they went home on break

and they heard over and over again that the American public is getting

fed up with this war, the amount of money that is being spent, the

number of lives that are being lost, and so they come to the floor,

after having done no oversight, never explaining to the American public

how billions of dollars are being spent, never taking the time to find

out about the corruption and the mismanagement in Iraq, never

investigating the lies and the lack of intelligence and all that has

been happening. They have the audacity to come before the public in a

so-called debate with the resolution simply designed to trap the

Democrats.

It is a resolution that says all kinds of things. Do you love the

soldier or don't you? If you don't support our resolution, you are not

for the soldiers in Iraq. And so many Democrats are going to get

trapped because they claim that in their districts they have half of

their constituents for it, this war, and half against it, and they

don't know what to do. And so when they have to confront a phony debate

and a phony resolution, they may just say yes because they don't want

to be criticized for not being patriotic and loving the soldiers and

supporting them.

Well, I am here to say tonight it is a sham. And I would hope,

overnight, that my colleagues on this side of the aisle would see the

light and have the courage to vote against it, to not participate in

the sham. But I don't know if they will or not.

But let me just give you the background and the backdrop of why all

of this is happening. This war started March 19, 2003. Total number of

U.S. troops in Iraq today, about 133,000. Number of soldiers dead,

2,499, as of June 14. Number of soldiers injured, 18,490, as of June

14. Total amount appropriated, including latest supplemental, $320

billion. The cost of the war per month, $6.1 billion, almost $11

million an hour. There were 1,398 reported killings in May alone, more

than any other month since the war began in 2006, and that figure

doesn't include slain soldiers or civilians killed in bombings. Yet,

the President of the United States would make you believe we are

winning the war. We are advancing. We are going to be able to turn this

mess over to the Iraqis and they are going to be able to contain what

is now a civil war.

According to the Pentagon, there are about 600 insurgent attacks each

week since the new government took over in February. The rate of

insurgent attacks is higher now than it was in 2004. Our soldiers are

being killed. It is difficult for them to protect themselves against

these bombings, these suicide bombings, these bombings that are set off

in cars along the road and dead dogs and on and on and on.

And why are they dying? We are in this war because the President of

the United States said that there were weapons of mass destruction that

we had to protect against. All that we have encountered is

mismanagement, corruption, missteps, a lack of winning this crazy

thing. Soldiers dying and some of our young people now being charged

with killing innocent people because they put guns in their hands and

they told them to go and kill them because they hated it.

These soldiers should not be charged. The President of the United

States should be charged. The Republicans should be charged and the

Democrats should get some courage and come to this Chamber and make

sure that they oppose this war.