Mr. Speaker, through a congressional debate on the Iraq

supplemental funding bill, Senate and House Republican leaders said

that significant improvements will be needed to be seen by September in

Iraq, otherwise a serious course correction might be needed.

We'll see if Republican leaders will continue to back those words and

will finally join us in moving the Iraq war in a new direction, or will

they move the deadline to a later date like they have done in the past.

It will be interesting to see if they stand by their statements in

light of General David Petraeus' acknowledgment over the weekend that

conditions in Iraq were not improved by September. The general also

indicated that stabilizing Iraq will take as long as 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats remain committed to forging a new direction in

Iraq. In the coming months, Democrats will continue to hold President

Bush accountable to fight to ensure that the Iraqi people take control

of the country. A 10-year commitment is simply unacceptable to us. Now

we will see if the Republicans will stand by their past statements and

join us in the efforts in September.