The administration sets several benchmarks for the

Iraqi Government, including the passage of the hydrocarbon law by the

parliament. The administration misled this Congress by emphasizing only

a small part of this law, the so-called ``fair'' distribution of oil

revenues.

Consider the fact that the Iraqi hydrocarbon law contains a mere

three sentences that generally discuss the ``fair'' distribution of

oil. Except for these three scant lines, the entire 33-page hydrocarbon

bill is about creating a complex legal structure to facilitate the

privatization of Iraqi oil. As a matter of fact, yesterday, Vice

President Cheney was in Baghdad specifically to tell the Iraqi

legislature they must stay in session to pass this hydrocarbon bill

which hands Iraqi oil over to foreign oil companies.

It is imperative that all of us look at this carefully before we cast

our vote today.

Mr. Speaker, this war will never end if the Iraqi people believe the

U.S. government is trying to deliver its oil over to U.S. oil

companies.