Madam Speaker, I was home last week, and although there

was a great deal of discussion about gas prices, still the number one

issue among the people of my district in Missouri is the military

action in Iraq. And one of the things they are confused about is the

fact that this is the most unpopular war in the history of our Republic

and yet nothing seems to change. Over 70 percent of the American public

is against the war, and we continue to travel down the same road over

and over again.

One of the reasons I believe we have two ears and just one mouth is

that we are to listen more than we speak. Therefore, it seems to me

that the people of this country are speaking but we are simply not

listening.

It is my hope that all blank checks and rubber stamps will be put

away. And while we are waiting to discuss this, the Democrats are

moving forward with our commitment to make serious changes in Iraq.