Mr. Speaker, I regret that I cannot agree with the

previous speaker. I think the tone of this debate is good, but the

process is terrible. Mr. Lantos, the ranking member of the committee,

attempted to participate in making this a truly bipartisan resolution.

Now, I am one of those who has consistently supported the policies of

our government and who supports success in our efforts in Iraq. I think

that is in the best interests of America, certainly in the best

interests of the Iraqi citizenry and the best interests of civility in

the Middle East. However, I am saddened by the continued partisanship

with which this issue is handled.

Mr. Lantos and I and Ms. Pelosi offered a resolution which

congratulated the Iraqi people, noted their courage, noted their

determination to reach for democracy. That is what this effort is

about. There was no attempt at bipartisanship. That was rejected out of

hand, not even allowed as an amendment. That is not the way we bring

our country together. That is not the way we strengthen our resolve.

That is not the way we show the world that we are of, if not exactly

one mind, of one objective.

I thank my friend for yielding me time. I thank him for his efforts.

I generally agree with the propositions set forth in the resolution,

but I am not sure I am going to vote for it because I am deeply grieved

by the continuing failure to try to bring this House together on this

issue and to bring this country together on this issue and to ensure

that together we go forward to achieve success.