Mr. Speaker, America deserves a real choice about our

future in Iraq. But, instead, tomorrow it is presented with a false

choice. Indeed, not so much a debate about our future in Iraq as a 10-

hour or so talk-a-thon. The talk-a-thon is about a resolution that,

much like the Iraq policy we have seen over the last few years, is

presented to this House without the ability of any Member of the House

to change a single word. You cannot dot an ``i.'' You cannot cross a

``t.'' You cannot offer an amendment. You cannot offer a substitute or

alternative policy. Once again, in a very constrained and perverse way,

the question of Iraq is presented for Members to talk, but not to act.

Indeed, the resolution itself tells the whole story. It is entitled a

resolution which is ``declaring that the United States will prevail in

the `Global War on Terror.' '' Wouldn't it be wonderful if by simply

passing a declaration we could declare the ``Global War on Terror''

won?

But tragically it is paper like this that was offered by those who

failed to fulfill their decision-making and oversight responsibilities

in this Congress that exposed young men and women from this country to

the greatest danger. Instead of Kevlar vests, instead of reinforced

vehicles, they got paper resolutions. And paper resolutions could not

block the IEDs, and it could not block the bullets that came the way of

our brave young men and women in uniform. No. Indeed, other than paper

proclamations, the original claim was the main thing our troops would

need in Iraq, as they were being sent off to war, was a broom to sweep

away all the rose petals that would be thrown at them in gratitude for

them invading Iraq. Well, of course, it did not turn out that way.

This false choice that we are being presented with tomorrow without

any opportunity to dot an ``i'' or cross a ``t'' deserves some

consideration. It has a ``Whereas'' clause that ``by early 2003, Saddam

Hussein . . . had supported terrorists, constituted a threat against

global peace.''. The reason that language is there is to perpetuate the

lie, and it is a lie, that Saddam Hussein was somehow linked to the

tragedy of 9/11.

Now, we know that Saddam Hussein was a villain, a thug, a dictator,

and a tyrant. But there has been absolutely no evidence presented to

this Congress to support the continued innuendo and suggestion by this

administration, time and time again, that he somehow was responsible

for 9/11.

Then there is a clause in the resolution that ``the terrorists have

declared Iraq to be the central front in the war against all who oppose

their ideology. Well, the truth is it became a central front only after

President George Bush started a war there. He provided the terrorists

with the opportunity; he took our young men and women to them, placed

them in grave danger, provided an inadequate number of troops so that

all these Iraqi ammunition and weapons dumps were open and

available to any terrorist who wanted to come in and take their weapons

to use against our American forces.

The resolution refers to our ``coalition,'' and, of course, our

``coalition'' is the United States, the United Kingdom, and a great

deal of public relations. Because most of the other countries in the

so-called ``coalition'' have contributed extremely meager resources.

They have been there for public relations purposes to try to cover the

fact that this was a go-it-alone invasion of Iraq.

And now the ``impressive victories'' of which this resolution speaks

do not take into account that the number of deaths of young Americans

is approaching 3,000; 3,000 human beings, 3,000 young people cut down

in their lives, removed from their families. We approach another 20,000

who suffered grievous injury, who may never be quite the same because

of the injuries that they suffered in courageous service to our

country.

And that takes us to why this resolution is being presented in this

form. Because from the outset this administration and the leadership in

this Congress have never missed a chance to hitch a ride for their

failed policies on the coattails of the courageous men and women who

have been standing up for our country overseas.

They know their failed policies can't stand on their own merit, and

so they buried them within a resolution honoring the sacrifice of our

United States troops. I honor them, but say that our policy must change

and must change now.