Mr. Speaker, I do not think I am going to take the full 5

minutes, but I have been in this House Chamber almost all day and I

hear these arguments that we don't have a plan to end the war in Iraq

and succeed, and that is just simply not true. It is not true at all.

The fact is the plan was wrong in the sense that there was the

anticipation that it would happen more easily. But the plan is very

clear. It is not simple. It requires that the Iraqis have their own

police, their own border patrol, and their own army in order to secure

themselves. And since we did not allow for their police to be restood,

we had to start from scratch and train them.

And it is simply not possible to train a police and border patrol, an

army, in 1 year or 2 or 3. There are 26 million Iraqis in a country the

size of California. But every day we train more and more of them, so

that now they control about 42 percent of the land that includes 42

percent of the population.

So as we continue with our plan, as we continue to train more and

more Iraqis, we are able to move our troops out and move their troops

in. We are able to move their police in and our troops out. We are able

to move their border patrol in and our troops out.

Now, it is clear that they do not have the logistics, so we will

still have to be there later, but not in the numbers that we have now.

That is all part of the plan; to train their troops, train their border

patrol, train their army, and allow them to take our place.

What we object to is leaving prematurely. And if you ask an Iraqi

what their biggest fear is, and having been there 12 times I have

spoken to a lot of them, it is basically the same thing, it is that you

will leave us; that you will leave us before we can take hold of

democracy and before we can defend ourselves. That is their biggest

fear. Some of them even say, like you did in Vietnam. And some of them

will make reference to what they hear on CNN or what they hear about

elected officials who say we need to get out, we need to have some kind

of artificial timetable.

Thank goodness George Washington didn't have Congress telling him he

had to have a timetable to beat the Brits. Thank goodness when all the

generals criticized Abraham Lincoln, we didn't say, well, the generals

are against Abraham Lincoln, he doesn't have a plan, we better just

fold our tent. Thank goodness that didn't happen.

The bottom line for me is very clear. We may have been wrong about

weapons of mass destruction, and for that the President loses

credibility, and people like me do, and people on the other side of the

aisle who voted for going into Iraq, and now pretend like they didn't,

we all lose our credibility there. But we don't lose our credibility

with this: Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. He used

these weapons on his own people and neighbors. He didn't abide by the

agreement that stopped us from going into Baghdad. He has now been

removed. Thank God.

The Iraqi people have a democracy that is flourishing and is

extraordinarily impressive. Three elections have allowed the Iraqis to

form a government that created a Constitution, adopt a Constitution,

and then elect a government under that Constitution.

All the Iraqis are asking from this Congress is you came in, you

removed our security people, you have given us a taste of democracy,

let us live that democracy and let us have the capability to protect

ourselves before you leave. That's our plan.