Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post has done it again

for us. They ran an article on the retirement of Turkey's ambassador to

the United States, and I was struck by a comment that the ambassador

made regarding Iraq and our efforts to reshape that country in the

Middle East.

This is what he said:

Democracy in the making.

Mr. Speaker, too many in this body and in the media have fed the

pessimism. Those of us standing with the President and our military in

Iraq are not playing Pollyanna on this. We know it is going to be a

tough, tough endeavor. But we believed and we still believe that

failing to act was a poor long-term solution to the fundamental crisis

of terrorism that exists in the Middle East.

Today, we should all take a moment and praise our troops, our

leadership, and the Iraqi people for voting on a constitution last

Saturday. Nearly 63 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot. That is

tremendous, and it should be cause for celebration both here and around

the world.

Again, to quote the ambassador, Let us

celebrate this success.