Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for

yielding, and I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for being an

honorable gentleman during this tough time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start with a couple of warnings. First, I

would suggest anyone on the Republican side shaking hands with the

majority might want to be careful because they have been licking their

fingers and sticking them into the political wind.

Second, government opinion by polls may lead to short-term success at

the ballot box, but in this case it could lead to a catastrophe on a

global scale.

We in this House best serve the United States, Iraq, and the world

community if we establish conditions in Iraq that allow for a somewhat

orderly transition to autonomy for Iraqis. A quick withdrawal from Iraq

would set off a fuse that would eventually blow up not only Iraq but

quite possibly surrounding countries as well.

Iraq foreign minister on Monday warned against a quick withdrawal by

the United States, saying, ``The dangers could be a civil war dividing

the country, regional wars, and the collapse of the state.''

Today when we talk about the Holocaust or when we talk about Rwanda

or when we talk about the Sudan, we ask how could good people stand by

and let this happen. It is an important lesson to remember as we pull

out our voting cards today. Remember, we are trying to help. If we pull

out of Iraq, we guarantee that the Tigris and the Euphrates will run

red with the blood of innocents. We guarantee a safe haven for the

training camps of al Qaeda. We guarantee more free rein for the death

squads of Moqtada al Sadr. We guarantee a civil war between Shiites and

Sunnis. We guarantee even more or worse instability in the region,

perhaps for decades.

No matter how we vote today, we are not going to stop the war. We may

stop fighting, but we are not going to stop the war. As Indonesian

jihadist leader Abu Bakar Bashir said, ``All Muslims should fight to

create an Islamic state. There are only two options for Muslims, to win

or to die.''