Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman Ike Skelton

for getting us to this point today, 1,581 days, 53 months, over 4 years

since this President led this Nation to war in Iraq; 3,600 American

soldiers killed, 27,000 American soldiers seriously injured, 60,000 to

100,000 Iraqis killed; $10 billion per month, $500 billion American

dollars spent on this war.

A civil war is raging in Iraq; there is no credible government in

Iraq; Iraq is

totally destabilized and Iraq refugees are flooding into neighboring

countries; there is no coalition of the willing supporting the U.S. in

this war; and we are well on our way to destabilizing the entire Middle

East.

President Bush and the chief architect of this war, Vice President

Dick Cheney, are in denial about the disastrous mess they have created.

Some of us have known for quite some time this war must end. Barbara

Lee, Lynn Woolsey and I and several other Members of Congress created

the Out of Iraq Caucus over 2 years ago. We organized this caucus, but

we were dismissed as bleeding heart liberals.

It has taken too long to get to this point we are at today. This bill

will at least demand a strategy to get us out of Iraq and a deadline

will be set. This has been a long time in coming.

However, Mr. Speaker, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

President Bush will apply all kinds of pressure, threaten, mislead,

spend us blind and continue to pursue this immoral war, unless we

decide that we are not going to fund this war anymore.

In the words of the people on the street who are organized against

this war, Mr. President, not another nickel, not another dime, not

another soldier, not this time.

Vote for this bill. It is a good start. And remember, in the final

analysis, we have got to defund this war.