Mr. Speaker, I believe that the reason that Americans send

us here to Congress is to have us to solve problems. And I don't think

any of us mind, and I certainly don't mind, the accusation by Democrats

to say that the war and the situation in Iraq is incompetently planned,

or that we should change course, or that we should have bold, new

initiatives. In fact, I think that's what we should be discussing. But

unfortunately, what we have here today is not a matter of solving

problems but rather of playing politics. Because the bill in front of

us is not a bold plan. It doesn't have any segment of a plan at all. It

just simply says, we're going to pull a bunch of troops out at a

particular time. It

doesn't say how many; it just says we are going to pull some troops

out. You know, the people who fought World War II would have liked very

much to have ended the war more rapidly if they could just put

something on a wish list and say, we're going to bring some troops

home. But you can't do that until you win a war. And what we have

before us is not a bold plan, and it's not a constructive suggestion to

say, hey, you've incompetently managed the war, so here's a better way.

There's no better way. It offers nothing other than just a bunch of

wishes.

Now, if we want to send this to whoever it is that wants to grant

wishes, that might be useful, but it's absolutely useless in terms of

solving problems. And that's why we should be here.

I have to take the Democrats to task. You forgot, you guys are in the

majority. The people elected you to solve problems. This doesn't solve

a problem, it just simply says we want to bring some troops home. It

doesn't say how or what we're going to do or what the strategy is. It

says, oh, we've already done this one thing for a month, and now we

just want to turn around and bring the troops home.

I think one thing that we can understand and one thing that we need

to do is to stand away from this problem a little bit and put it in the

broadest terms, and that is the terms as Americans.

There is one thing that has joined us together that we just

celebrated, and that's the Fourth of July. And the Fourth of July we

signed a Declaration of Independence, and the heart of that document,

the heart of what America believes in is the fact that it says we hold

these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and

endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; among these

is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And we stand tall on the

Fourth of July when we remember that set of principles.

So the job of government is to protect those rights. And who is it

that our sons and daughters are now fighting? They're people who

believe that we blow up innocent people to make a political statement.

They're people who believe that we use terror to compel people so that

they don't have freedom and that people cannot pursue happiness and

women cannot be educated. And so, is it so odd that we find ourselves

fighting against people who believe the diametric opposite of

everything America has ever stood for?

I taught those principles to my little kids when they were children.

And they started the ``Marine Club.'' Here is a picture of them at a

flag ceremony in their rag-tag uniforms bought from their Army surplus

store, a bunch of little kids. Now what has happened is they have

implemented those ideas. Well, what has happened is this little kid

here is now Special Forces Air Force Academy, just graduated last

month. And this other one, my son, has graduated from the little Marine

club to the big Marine club. Here is a cache of weapons found in

Fallujah. There is my son. And the reason that they are there and the

reason that he risked his life numerous times is because he does

believe there is a God that gives rights to all people, and that

governments should protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

And when we, as Americans, forget that, then we start to lose our sense

of direction in what we're doing.

Until there is a specific proposal, then there is nothing being

offered at all. There is not leadership. And this is merely politics.