Mr. Speaker, today this Congress, the 110th Congress,

faces an historic vote, a vote to truly change the direction of the

Iraqi conflict.

Let us review the cost America has borne in 4 years: 3,200 lives have

been lost, 25,000 of our citizens have been injured, and nearly a half

a trillion dollars have been spent, and America's reputation around the

world has been sullied.

And under the President's leadership, his Iraqi policy comes down to

something very simple: more troops, more money, more time, more of the

same. That is it.

Now, there is a lot of rhetoric going around. We fund our troops. You

fund the troops. There is one fundamental difference: We require the

Iraqis to bear responsibility for Iraq, and you provide them and the

President another blank check for another year. And that is the

fundamental difference, whether you will bring accountability and

responsibility to the Iraqis to stand up for Iraq.

Now, some bemoan and say we are micromanaging. I would say to you,

you rubber-stamped 4 years of mismanagement. Not enough troops, not a

plan for the occupation and elimination of the Iraqi Army has brought

us in from in search of WMD to policing a sectarian civil war.

And when you talk, as the President said on January 10, that he wants

the Iraqis to meet his benchmarks, but you don't have any benchmarks or

any accountability for Iraq, I can only say one thing, as we say in

Chicago, ``You're all hat and no cattle.''

It is time, after 4 years and an unbelievable cost across America,

borne mostly by our troops and their families and our military, that we

ask the Iraqis to do for Iraq what they have asked us to do for them

for 4 years, and that is to be accountable for their own future.

And I am proud that we have finally done something. We will fund the

troops, and we will also demand that Iraq stand up for Iraq's future

and stop leaning on America alone.

And we have done something that is so important that has been missing

in this policy, and that is not only a new direction, but fundamentally

bringing the responsibility and accountability to the Iraqis, which is

why many in the Armed Forces are happy we are forcing Iraqis to do for

Iraq's future what they have asked us to do, which is stop policing

their civil war, but demand accountability, bring a new direction to

this, because after 4 years, more troops, more money, more time is only

rubber-stamping more of the same.