Personally, Mr. Speaker, I wish this resolution of

disapproval articulated our disapproval of the administration's failure

to accomplish certain chores in preparation for our fine troops

undertaking this new mission under General Petraeus.

Everyone, including the President, now acknowledges mistakes over the

past 4 years, but those well-documented errors are not the mistakes I

am talking about. Now, today, mistakes are being made. Now, today,

high-ranking officials in the administration fall short in their

performance.

Why, after 4 years of the Iraq war, is the Secretary of State unable

to get the appropriate reconstruction, economic development, and other

necessary personnel to Iraq? Why did the State Department recently have

to request the Defense Department to help fill in these necessary

positions? Why have the efforts of political reconciliation been so

ineffective? Why has the American diplomatic effort in the region been

so ineffective? Where are the trained police and judges who will need

to deal with all the detainees to be arrested in Baghdad? Why aren't an

adequate number of property detention facilities not available for

these future detainees that are sure to come from an aggressive effort

to decrease the violence in Baghdad?

General Petraeus, clearly one of America's finest military leaders,

during his recent opening statement before the Senate Armed Services

Committee, felt an obligation to plead for the help and commitment from

other U.S. government agencies commensurate with what our troops give

24 hours a day, day after day, week after week, month after month.

I have had references being made to Winston Churchill, but I remind

those speakers who make such comparisons that we are not a

parliamentary system. If we were, the Secretary of State and other

high-ranking officials would be gone because of their failures. We are,

thankfully, the American system; and in our responsibility to support

our troops, we know we must not just equip and train them. We know that

all agencies of American government, the nonmilitary agencies, must

pull their load if our fine troops are to be successful.

So we now have a situation where our new commander on the ground,

General Petraeus, says he needs the additional troops. On the other

hand, he says he needs all the other agencies of government to step

forward with, in his words, ``an enormous commitment.''

It is clear this commitment of other agencies is not yet being made.

Regardless of the result of this vote today, our troops will still be

in Iraq needing the commitment of all government agencies.

The House leadership has stated that this resolution today is the

first step of other legislation to come. This other legislation to come

must address the issues of the shortcomings of other agencies of U.S.

government, the nonmilitary agencies of U.S. government. Our troops

deserve the help.