I want to thank the gentleman from New York for yielding

time.

Mr. Speaker, the narrow issue is: More troops to the front, or not?

Many here say ``no more troops,'' but what are the consequences for the

troops on the ground without more aid? What will happen in and around

Baghdad where those troops are supposed to be sent? Their mission there

will be more difficult without more troops.

Does this Congress want to tell our troops on the ground, do your job

with less, even though we have it in our power to send you aid?

Mr. Speaker, 171 years ago this month, a somewhat similar call for

aid was made; and it, too, was refused.

In an old, beat-up Spanish mission in central Texas, Bexar, Texas, to

be exact, 187 men from every State in the United States, 13 foreign

countries, including Mexico, found themselves in a precarious

situation. They were behind the walls facing an enemy. They needed

help.

Texas politicians, even so-called military experts, had it within

their power to send more troops. And for all the similar reasons that

are mentioned here, including the troops shouldn't even be in the

mission and the plan was a bad idea from its inception, this plan is

not working, your troops there should even leave, similar reasons we

hear today, no help was sent.

The place, Mr. Speaker, was the Alamo, and the time was February 24,

1836. And behind the cold, damp walls of the Alamo, by candlelight, a

27-year-old lawyer, commander by the name of William Barrett Travis,

wrote this letter. I read it today:

Mr. Speaker, we know what happened at the Alamo. Those 187 men died

because no help was sent. Later, Texans did provide troops and rallied

and won independence from Mexico. But the answer then, as it has been

in many wars in the past, is the answer now: More troops are necessary.

We need to finish what we started. We need to do what it takes.

Now, Baghdad will be no Alamo. We cannot lose in Baghdad. But this

body has it in its power to prevent a victory in Baghdad and Iraq.

So, Mr. Speaker, heed the warnings of the past, heed the history, and

send aid with all dispatch.

And that's just the way it is.