I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, we are here to debate a House Concurrent Resolution,

and the root verb of ``resolution'' is resolute. I just want to

challenge the House today to consider the resolution of our enemies. I

would like to read three quotes to you.

Resolved, by Osama bin Laden. The whole world is watching this war,

and the two adversaries, the Islamic nation on the one hand and the

United States and its allies on the other. It is either victory and

glory or misery and humiliation.

Or how about this? Resolved, in the al Quaeda charter: There will be

continuing enmity until everyone believes in Allah. We will not meet

the enemy halfway, and there will be no room for dialogue with them.

Or how about this, and I am paraphrasing: Resolved, from Osama bin

Ladens deputy, who said that the plan is to extend the jihad wave; to

expel the Americans from Iraq and extend the jihad wave to secular

countries neighboring Iraq, clash with Israel and establish an Islamic

authority.

Is there anyone among us who doubts the resolve and clarity with

which our opponents are speaking? I don't.

I think what is lacking today in our conversation is the consequences

of failure. The previous speaker used the words ``victory'' and

``success.'' He had a very low view of them, and I understand his

characterization of those words. He said we have heard those words

before. That is what the gentleman from New Jersey said.

But, do you know what? We will hear the word ``failure'' when it is

used in the context of this challenge that is before us.

There is no question that there has been great difficulty that has

gone before us in this fight. There is no question that there have been

great mistakes that have been made, and I am wholeheartedly in favor of

us acting as a coequal branch of government and calling for benchmarks

and demarcation and holding the administration accountable for its

decisions.

But if we fail in this, if we pull out, if we retreat, if we yield,

what will happen? Is there anybody really who thinks that Iran, for

example, will be less provocative? Is there anyone who thinks that al

Quaeda will be less provocative?

If we fail, extremism in this world, will it be ascendant or will it

be descendant?

Madam Speaker, I close with a simple question, and that is, we need

to ask, What is it about this resolution that will do one of two

things? Does this encourage our troops, or does this discourage our

enemies? I would suggest that this resolution, while it is serious, oh,

it is very serious, it is not substantive. This is the ultimate

expression of legislative passive aggression. It offers no substantive

alternative.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition, and ask my colleagues to do the

same.