Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it, the change that

took place in this body over the course of November 7 is directly

related to this war in Iraq. And the presence of a number of people who

are here now is directly related to the will of the American people to

end this war, which never should have been started.

The fact is, the strategy to escalate the troops is not new, it has

been tried at least four other times. It won't work this time, it

didn't work those times. The thing to do now is to engage

diplomatically and politically. That is what this situation calls for

and that is the only thing that will bring success in this conflict at

this time.

Support the troops? Of course. Of course, support the troops. Always

we support the troops. But there comes a time when you cannot get the

success that you seek at the barrel of a gun, you have to talk it out,

you have to engage diplomatically, you have to engage politically.

There is no substitute for that.

Support the troops, but bring them home. Support the troops, redeploy

them, and allow the Iraqi people to seize and protect their country at

this time.

I carry a message here today on behalf of people like Phil Steger and

the Friends For a Nonviolent World, on behalf of Chapter 27 of Veterans

For Peace, on behalf of every patriot who stands for peace, in the

frigid cold, every Wednesday night on Lake Street Bridge in

Minneapolis.

On behalf of the 3,100 Americans killed, including Minnesotans, I

carry that message. On behalf of 24,000 scarred and wounded young

Americans, including 372 Minnesotans, I carry the message. On behalf of

the families and the loved ones of the damaged and deceased, I carry

the message that the American soldier has done what has been asked, and

it is time for politicians to step forward and do their job, which is

to seek a political and diplomatic solution to this conflict, something

that this latest escalation cannot do.

On behalf of the $8 billion we send to Iraq each month, hard-working

American tax dollars that could be used to enrich the lives of the

86,000 uninsured children of Minnesota, or for nearly the 700,000

Minnesota Medicare patients, I carry the message that we need peace. We

need to pursue it vigorously, unwaveringly, and urgently.

On behalf of the Americans who purposefully misled repeatedly,

including the administration as related to these weapons of mass

destruction where none existed, on behalf of the people who claim

falsely of the collusion between 9/11 and Saddam Hussein where none

existed, on behalf of the people who said that regime change would be

welcomed with flowers instead of IEDs, I say stop the deception, start

telling the truth.

On behalf of the people who say that the Iraqi oil revenues would pay

for this war instead of draining the American Treasury of over $400

billion, I say stop the deception, start telling the truth.

On behalf of those Americans who told us, repeatedly, facts which got

us into this war in the first place, and which they are trying to

sustain us in this war now, I say stop the deception. Stop the killing.

Stop the carnage. Support our troops, do not support this escalation.

Send a clear signal to the President that this is the wrong way to go.

For 6 years now, while the deception has deepened, we were told to

shut up, bite your tongues, you are not as patriotic as me, you don't

love America as much as I do. None of that is true. We have to stop

this polarizing language and really focus on the best way out of this.

Even people who support the escalation can't claim that we are going

to be in Iraq forever. What is your plan for eventually getting out of

this thing? We say let's start the withdrawal now, let's start the

diplomatic solution now, let's start the political solution now.

I want to say, on behalf of those who really thirst for peace, who

believe that peace really is the answer, that we need to look at the

words of Martin Luther King, Jr., when he spoke out against the Vietnam

War. He said, ``There comes a time when silence is betrayal.'' And so

it is.

And so, in keeping in line with the legacy of Dr. King, I want to

talk about peace today. To those people who believe in the principles

of peace and that peaceful dissent that guided Dr. King, those people

should know that for you to raise your voice on behalf of peace is a

patriotic act, it is a good thing.

To those people who say they believe in peace and believe peace is

the right way to go, let me wrap up my remarks by just reminding you

that Marine General Peter Pace, somebody who knows a little bit about

warfare, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, just last week said,

There is no doubt in my mind that the dialogue here in Washington

strengthens our democracy, period. He added, Potential enemies of the

United States, they may take comfort in rancor, but they do not know

anything about how democracy works. The fact is that peace is

patriotic. Dissenting from an ill-fated policy of the President is the

right thing to do. Indeed, it is our obligation.

So please continue to stand up for peace and never forget that peace

is the answer, and peace is going to prevail.