Mr. Speaker, this debate is a sad moment in

our Nation's history. If there was ever a time when Americans should be

standing together, this is the time. This resolution does nothing but

divide.

Throughout our country's illustrious history, we have been confronted

with many challenges, but challenges met with unity of purpose,

unflinching courage and unyielding resolve to be victorious against all

odds.

This debate, disguised as a no-confidence vote against the President,

is really about defeat, about surrender, about retreating from an enemy

determined to destroy our very existence.

Mr. Speaker, the obvious truth of our situation is that we may run,

but we can't hide. They know where we live.

Today, Americans all over this great land should stop for a moment

and consider this national debate. They should ask themselves what this

means to them personally, their families and their neighbors. Is it

worth the expense and sacrifice of war now in order to establish a

secure and lasting peace? Or should our Nation take momentary relief

and retreat as we wait for our newly emboldened enemies to strike our

homeland with even more fierce and deadly attacks?

Mr. Speaker, we must all realize that September 11, 2001 was not the

end of the radical Islamic jihad against the United States. It was just

the beginning. September 11 was a declaration of war. The fact is, we

are not at war with Iraq. Iraq is an ally in our war against the

radical Islamic jihadists. Iraq is only one among many battlegrounds

where we are fighting jihadists who are committed to the destruction of

Western civilization and replacing it with theocratic Taliban-style

rule.

Mr. Speaker, if we cut and run, if we retreat from Iraq, we will

forfeit our ability to lead the world against the enemies of peace.

Iraq, in all likelihood, would fall to Iranian dominance and would

become a launching pad for terror attacks against the United States and

Israel. Islamic jihadists will be emboldened in Afghanistan, Pakistan,

and the greater Middle East. The world oil supply could be vulnerable

to jihadist control, and nuclear armed missiles in Pakistan could turn

into a hellish nightmare.

And Israel, Mr. Speaker, one of our closest and most faithful allies,

could see its very existence perilously close to total annihilation.

World War III could even be the final consequence of the misguided

actions of this Congress if we retreat from Iraq. But sadly, Mr.

Speaker, there are some in this Congress who are more concerned about

the next election than the next generation.

So where are the FDRs, the Churchills, the Pattons, the MacArthurs,

the Trumans, the John F. Kennedys, and the men and women of the

Greatest Generation in this hour of our great peril? They are in Iraq

and Afghanistan fighting for our safety and our security. But the self-

centered generation, the politicians, the media types and the whiners

and complainers are sitting in the safety of their homes complaining

about the unpleasantries of war. This generation of the self-centered

and indulgent, if successful in their defeatism, will condemn untold

numbers to horrors never imagined by the most creative writers of

horror fiction.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot, will not believe, as a Nation, that we have

become so preoccupied with our own personal and political Quaedas that

we have fallen asleep to the dangers before our Nation. The hour of

decision is upon us. Will we rally from our slumber and awaken to

reality? We are at war. Or will we close our eyes in self-deception and

hide ourselves under the blanket of a cowardly resolution? Tomorrow we

must choose. Will it be commitment over retreat, freedom over slavery,

courage over fear, democracy over theocratic fascism, security over

terror, life over death?

Mr. Speaker, our brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces have

already chosen. They have willingly volunteered to put their lives on

the line and, at this very moment, are fighting for all that we

cherish. It is they who represent today's greatest generation.

Tomorrow we can honor these brave souls by choosing their values, by

defeating this disgraceful resolution, or we can pass this vile

legislation and have it recorded to our eternal shame.