Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Indiana. I

appreciate the opportunity to engage in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, like many others here, previously I typed up different

potential remarks for this debate. But as I have listened to the debate

over the last couple of days, I kept hearing some things being said

over and over

again, and I started making notes of some of the things I just really

need to address.

As the old saying goes, we are all entitled to our own opinion, but

we are not entitled to our own set of facts. Facts are facts.

One of the things I have heard over and over the last couple of days,

well, it goes without saying. Normally in reference to we support our

troops, it goes without saying. If there is anything I have noticed

since I left the bench and came to Congress is that nothing goes

without saying in this House . Everything gets said and seems like gets

said over and over again. Nothing goes without being said.

But let us talk about that. It goes without saying we support our

troops. That has stirred up a great deal of debate and animosity at one

point, and led usually into things about the lies the President told

before this war, lies the President told before this war. Well, look,

some of us believe in forgiveness.

I think there is still potential disagreement. Obviously we know that

Saddam had weapons of mass destruction. He killed thousands of Kurds,

gassed thousands of people. Certainly he was killing with mass

destruction, but if you happen to believe really, honestly, truthfully

that the President lied, then it is time to forgive President Clinton

for all those lies. Forgive Madeleine Albright for all those lies. All

the time, Madeleine Albright and Bill Clinton told us over and over

again that there were weapons of mass destruction, and if President

Bush happened to have believed President Clinton and Madeleine Albright

and those people that were saying there were weapons of mass

destruction in Iraq, well, I guess they just should not have believed

the Clinton administration.

But there were things that the Clinton administration could base that

on, but we have got to get past that. It just seems to engender so much

hatred.

I have heard people say over and over this is a historic debate

because the Republicans never allowed this debate when they were in the

majority. I remember having discussions like this twice in the last

Congress. We voted on a couple of resolutions, and people would say one

thing and then end up voting another on the resolution.

Now, I did hear one of my friends across the aisle say something I do

agree with. He said he did not believe it was appropriate to tell

troops they were coming home on a certain date and then change that. I

agree, and a number of us have been pointing that out to those in the

military and to the White House. That needs to stop. When you tell

somebody who is in harm's way you are coming home on a certain date,

they need to come home. We can agree on that.

But then I heard another say, we need to avoid a constitutional

crisis by shocking this President into a new course of action. You

shocked him into a new course of action. He said we are going to send

21,000 troops over there, 21,500. In fact, people like Harry Reid down

in the Senate have been calling for that last fall, maybe even as

recently as December, but oh, wait, as soon as the President calls for

it, then it is a terrible thing; we cannot believe that he is doing

this.

So the President has proposed something new. His commanders in the

field have said we need this, and so it is being done. We have got

troops already arriving and more arriving all the time.

I heard another one make reference to Vietnam, and one in indignation

said, have we not learned anything from Vietnam? I would submit, I

believe, Mr. Speaker, apparently not, because some people want to

rewrite history; but the fact is, if you go back, the people were

saying get out of Vietnam, get out of Vietnam are the same people

saying this now in Iraq, and so President Nixon tried to get folks out.

For all his faults, and he did have plenty, and you will not hear me

say I think he was a great President because he lied, but one of the

things he did try to do, he saw the polls and started trying to get

people out of Vietnam.

When we started the Paris peace talks, things broke down. It was not

going well. He decided to bomb North Vietnam. He went on the attack. He

was carpet-bombing Hanoi, and as Sam Johnson and those who were in the

Hanoi Hilton said, they were worried they might be hit by the bombs,

but they were so glad, finally the United States was reacting and

responding, and as Sam says, when he left, to get the chronology

correct, the bombing went on. They came back to the peace talks, and we

reached terms, and the POWs, most of them were coming home. Sam said

one of the leaders at the prison said, you know, if you guys had just

kept bombing a little longer, we would have had to surrender

completely.

That was a winnable war, but people were not doing what it took to

win so that we could have a good reputation. If you go look at our

enemies and al Qaeda's, the rhetoric now in Iraq, Afghanistan, around

the Middle East, they are saying look at what they did in Vietnam. They

promised their allies they were going to stick with them.

Gerald Ford has been quoted recently. What a fine man. I hear people

on both sides of the aisle at his funeral and after his death. He

begged this Congress and this House please do not cut off the funding;

we promised them funding even after we pulled our troops out. But this

Congress said, no, we are cutting the funding, and we have been harmed

ever since.

So in 1979, in Iran, they were bold enough to attack. An act of war,

that is what attacking an embassy is, and I was at Fort Benning at that

time. Nobody was dying to go to Iran, but everybody I knew was willing

to go and die because we had been attacked, and that was the first act

of war in this war involving terror, and we did not respond.

We did not respond in 1983 when our barracks were attacked and our

marines were killed. We withdrew 1991, on through the 1990s. We have

not responded, but I want to touch on one other thing.

I saw the majority leader come down. I saw it replayed in the wee

hours this morning. I did not realize it went on, and he came down and

challenged what Heather Wilson, who had left the floor, said, and

ultimately said basically, that anybody that would come and say, as she

did, that there might be a problem with Democrats being willing to

support and fund the troops as needed, and he said to come and say

anything of that nature was just not honest. I think it comes close to

violating the rules if it does not, but the fact is Heather Wilson had

stood right here and she had asked her Democratic friends across the

aisle, look, if you are really willing to say that, if you are saying

that this resolution means we will always provide everything that is

needed to our troops in harm's way, let us put it in the resolution. We

will have a unanimous-consent amendment, we will both agree, and it was

not agreed. The Democratic majority would not agree. The Rules

Committee did not agree. The Democratic leadership did not want that in

there.

So, to say it goes without saying ain't the way it should be. It

ought to be in print. It ought to be here said in black and white

because Heather Wilson was right: if you really believe that, put it in

black and white where our troops can see, and I would just in

conclusion leave you with this: this resolution for what it does and

does not do, it is a stay the course, stiffen the enemy, start our

collapse, and you look at our friend Mr. Murtha's comments to say, that

is what this starts the process for doing.

Mr. Speaker, when people on the other side of the aisle

wonder how we can ask, Do you really support the troops? How about this

quote that was contributed to Mr. Murtha? ``They won't be able to

continue. They won't be able to do the deployment. They won't have the

equipment. They don't have the training. They won't be able to do the

work.'' There is no question in my mind.

On his Web site that has now been taken down, it says, ``Chairman

Murtha will describe his strategy for not only limiting the deployment

of troops to Iraq, but undermining other aspects of the President's

foreign and national security policy.''

He is the Commander in Chief. That is undermining the President.