I thank the gentleman from New York for allowing me this

time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to share everyone's frustration with the

mistakes that have been made in Iraq, and the fact that progress has

not been made as fast as we would all have liked. I would say, though,

before you cast your vote on this resolution, I think it is only fair

to remind Members of this Chamber that the main thrust of this

resolution focuses only on one of at least 10 of the recommendations

the administration is carrying out based upon the work of the Iraq

Study Group. Others include shifting our primary mission to training

and equipping Iraqi security units and embedding more U.S. soldiers in

the Iraqi military.

The administration has also pledged to hold the Iraqi Government

accountable to its commitments to take primary responsibility for

security in all of Iraq's provinces by November, establishing a fair

constitutional amendment process, reforming de-Baathification laws,

creating a fair oil revenue sharing arrangement and holding local

elections.

Let me also remind the Democratic majority that when the Iraq Study

Group announced its recommendations, the Democratic leaders publicly

stated they hoped the President would embrace the report. But when the

administration proposed carrying out policy recommendations by the

study group, which included a surge in troops, the Democrats backed

away and took the cynical approach, oppose and criticize, rather than

to offer to work for real solutions.

Some Members of this body will use this week's nonbinding resolution

to run away from the vote that they cast in 2003. I will suggest to you

that history will judge this Congress in a manner many of you have not

considered. In my judgment, every Member who votes in favor of this

resolution is endorsing the Democratic Party's decision to manage the

war from Capitol Hill.

After all, as the debate on this resolution got under way this week,

the Democrat leadership in this House made it perfectly clear that the

resolution is just the first effort by the majority to begin a

Democratic-led legislative micromanagement of this war.

It is said that Colin Powell advised the President on Iraq, if you

break it, you own it. So I want to tell the Democratic majority that

with this resolution, your plan to micromanage this war through your

legislative initiatives, you are taking possession of this war.

With this resolution, you are taking over the day-to-day management

of this conflict, and at the same time taking the onus off of the

President. Let me say that again. You are now responsible for the

outcome of this war.

The Democratic majority has determined that solutions to our most

complicated conflicts can be solved through nonbinding resolutions, and

I predict forcing the President's hand by cutting off the funding for

our men and women in uniform, just like they did in Vietnam. Our

soldiers fought gallantly in Vietnam as they do today in Iraq, but the

legislative micromanagement by the U.S. Congress during the Vietnam

era, and in decisions to cut funding for our military mission in

Southeast Asia, only tied the hands of our warriors, but it not only

tied the hands of our warriors, it demoralized our men and women in

uniform for decades.

Ladies and gentlemen, the new majority has not learned from the

mistakes of the past, but has arrogantly concluded that House Democrats

can take command and control of our strategy and our troops in Iraq

from the floor of this Chamber. Keep in mind, now that the Democratic

leadership has assumed the role of Commanders in Chief, the

consequences of failures are now also theirs. Just as the North

Vietnamese changed their strategy and were emboldened by the misguided

actions of the Congress, so too will the enemies of freedom in Iraq be

emboldened by this and subsequent resolutions by this Congress.

Furthermore, if the majority party's political rhetoric corresponds

with their legislative agenda on Iraq, you can rest assured that the

humanitarian disaster will be yours. The jihadist victory will be

yours. The rogue state coalition of Iran and Syria will be yours.

A genocidal Sunni-Shiite-Arab civil war will be yours. You will have

handed al Qaeda victory and empowered its homicidal leaders. Again with

this resolution, the Democratic majority has seized control of this

conflict. And again, remember what Colin Powell said: If you break it

you own it.

History will not focus on your voting for the resolution authorizing

the force, but they will long remember you unleashing the hell that is

going to come in Iraq by voting for this resolution.