Mr. Speaker, I wish I could rise in support for the

administration's policy. I wish it made sense. I wish it was in the

best interests of this country to support that policy.

It has been now 4 years since the first American soldier entered the

deserts of Iraq, and about 4 years since the President has declared

victory. Since then, more than 3,100 Americans have been killed, 24,000

and more have been wounded, and anywhere between 40,000 and 100,000

Iraqis have died.

You know, I am proud and grateful that I could have the privilege of

serving my country and making some small offering to its success in

time of war. I understand how important it is we support our troops

there. They have done a magnificent job, and everyone in this Chamber,

including this speaker, support them fully. It is regrettable, however,

the leadership in Washington that has been less than stellar.

Unfortunately, the veracity of this administration and the respect in

which it is held on these matters ranks somewhere around that great

fantasist Baron Munchausen, the teller of fantastic tales.

I am against this plan, if it can be called such, because it is just

more of the same policies and programs that have consistently failed

for 4 years. I am against this surge because it will not make Americans

safer, because it will put more American lives at risk, because it

continues to neglect the battle in Afghanistan, and because it

completely disregards the necessary diplomatic and political

recommendations of the Iraqi Study Group.

Twenty-one thousand is too many to kill and too few to succeed. And,

more importantly, that number is going to be sent over there away from

the adventures that we are confronting in Afghanistan and the troubles

that we are seeing in that place, and we are going to send people over

there without adequate preparation, proper equipment, and training.

Vice President Cheney has told us that insurgency is in the last

throes. Mr. Speaker, the national Intelligence estimates said that

fanatical terrorism has now, and I quote, ``metastasized and spread

across the globe.''

At each possible turning point, the toppling of Saddam Hussein's

statue, the dissolving of the Army, the creation of the Iraqi

Constitution, the vote for the constitution, the Parliamentary

elections, the capture of Saddam, the death of Zarqawi, the Bush

administration has told us that victory is at hand. And yet the killing

goes on and seems to have risen to new levels and new evidence of risk.

I don't believe that we can any more condone this long train of

failure which has brought us so little success and such tremendous

sacrifice in blooded treasure. It is time that we recognize that our

troops are in the middle of a civil insurrection or a civil war. It is

time that we recognize that we must turn this situation now over to the

Iraqis. The matter will be decided by the Iraqis, not by us. It will

not be decided militarily, but rather politically, by the people in the

area, and not by Americans who are coming increasingly to be viewed as

intruders and to be less liked and less supported.

I know that commentators and defenders of the administration will

assert that Iraq is too important, too vital to our national interests

to be debated or criticized. I happen to think the debate in this body

on matters of great importance is the reason that we exist, and it is

time that we speak on behalf of the American people to tell this

administration: ``Find a new mechanism to prevail in this matter. Find

a new way to spend our lives and treasure. Find a new way to see to it

that we prevail and that we make this country safe,'' because it is

clear that this is not going to happen with the current policy as

exemplified by this administration.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. I hope that the

country will see to it that the President finally hears the message

that his policies are failed, it is time to make changes, and that we

have to do so in the interest of the United States and world peace