Mr. Speaker, ``So they go on in strange paradox, decided

only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift,

solid for fluidity, all-powerful to be impotent.'' The words of Winston

Churchill on the eve of World War II ring true today as clearly as they

did decades ago describing our state of affairs.

I am disappointed with my colleagues in the majority. They spent the

time and effort solidifying their caucus against the war in Iraq. They

devised a number of plans to withdraw our troops. They made Iraq the

focus of their agenda in November and not staying the course their

slogan. However, they stand today, as Churchill said, resolved to be

irresolute in their position on Iraq.

The resolution we debate in the House today is based on flawed logic.

The resolution states that Congress supports the efforts of our troops

in mind but not in body. The fact is, this resolution is framed upon

the idea that the current state of affairs in Iraq is beyond recovery

and should be abandoned.

Instead of offering any real alternatives, the Democrats have drafted

a nonbinding resolution that rejects the President's plan to reinforce

our troops and give the Iraqi Security Forces the assistance they need.

This resolution does not bring us one step closer to victory. This

resolution does nothing more than reinforce the status quo.

This resolution does show the American people that yet again, the

Democrats, for all of their rhetoric, have no plan, no alternative to

fight the threat of Islamic jihad. They instead have chosen, amazingly,

to simply stay the course.

I will be the first to admit that, despite the outstanding jobs that

our troops on the ground have done, progress in the war is slow and

frustrating. We overthrew a violent despot, only to see a new and

dangerous threat emerge. But we cannot be fooled into thinking that by

leaving Iraq this threat will melt away.

By the very admission of the Islamic fundamentalists we fight, this

war is

only part of a larger power play to consolidate power and form a

jihadist Islamic state in the center of the Middle East.

In a speech released this month, Ahman Zawahiri praised al Qaeda's

master plan for Iraq. He asked Allah to consolidate Iraq so that it

unites all our Muslim brothers in Iraq and sets up an Islamic state

which will proceed to liberate Jerusalem and take steps towards

reestablishment of the Caliphate.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a grave mistake for us to not take our

enemy at their word. The jihadists do not want peace. They want

capitulation. We ignored their threats in the 1980s and they bombed our

Marine barracks in Beirut. We ignored their rhetoric in the nineties

and they bombed the World Trade Center and our embassies in Africa. We

ignored their threats in the days leading up to September 11, and our

world was changed forever.

Democratic Presidential Candidate John Edwards described this

resolution best when he compared it to a child standing in a corner,

stomping his feet. This resolution may draw headlines, but it will not

change a thing.

We have one Commander in Chief, not 435 separate executives. What the

Congress does have is the power of the purse and the ability to cut off

the funding for the war. Let's be honest. This resolution is the first

step in that direction.

If cutting off funding is the Democrats' plan, and I believe it is,

then let them state it openly. They are no longer the voice of the

opposition in Congress. They are the majority, and they have an

obligation to govern. It is time for them to create a plan, a real

course of success. The American people are waiting.