Mr. Speaker, I have nothing but praise for our

warriors in Iraq, but I oppose the President's Iraq war.

If this was a resolution praising our warriors instead of using them

as a pretext for applauding the President's after-the-fact arguments

for going to war, I would vote for it. If this was a resolution

proposing ways in which Congress and the President will raise our

soldiers' pay, improve their housing at home and abroad, ensure quality

health care for their families and survivors, I would vote for it. If

this was a resolution guaranteeing the greater benefits, job training,

educational and employment opportunities for returning veterans, I

would vote for it. If this was a resolution demanding that the

President develop a real foreign policy agenda instead of a doctrine of

preemption and preventative war, I would vote for it. If this was a

resolution calling on the President and the Intelligence Community to

come clean on why no weapons of mass destruction have been found, I

would vote for it. If this was a resolution condemning the no-bid

contracts by which private military companies like Halliburton have

enriched themselves and whose contributions have fattened the

President's campaign war chest, I would vote for it.

But since this resolution is none of the above, I am compelled to

vote against it. Since this resolution is steeped in hypocrisy and

self-congratulatory bravado while refusing to address the false

pretenses upon which the Iraqi war was launched, I am compelled to vote

against it.

Again, this is poli-tricks, again, as this resolution was crafted to

divide this Nation, not bring this Nation together. No, none of us had

an opportunity on this side to contribute anything to this resolution,

if, in fact, they want to have any kind of unity.