Mr. Speaker, just as an introduction, it seems to me that,

to a certain degree, the other party doeth protest too much.

The first thing I have been hearing about is complaints about

intelligence information. Yet it was the other party, the Democrat

Party, that under the Church Commission dismantled our human

intelligence and has consistently done that. Over the 8 years Clinton

was in office, they voted to cut the human intelligence budget 30

percent and now want to complain about the fact that our intelligence

information is not that good.

This is also a party that cut the defense budget close to half and

wonders why there is not some equipment sometimes. They cannot have it

both ways.

But I would like to focus, rather, about what was and what is now.

What was, we saw. We saw the late-night knock of the secret police. We

saw the torture chambers when I was in Iraq that used to exist. We saw

the women that had been raped as a form of political coercion. We saw

women that were not educated.

Those things have changed. Because what is now is a society that is

moving into a new century, a place where women can be educated, where

no longer torture and murder and amputation are used as a tool to

intimidate, and where we saw on the streets of Iraq people starting to

emerge into a free civilization. There are all kinds of new businesses

being formed.

These are words from a brave Iraqi Parliamentarian, probably risking

his life, talking about the new constitution. Some, he says, may say

that the Bill of Rights is copied from the West. My answer: these

rights and values are not exclusively the property of the West. They

are universal and should be respected and implemented everywhere. We

have put up a high standard so that the people of the future may always

try to reach.

I think that is a statement of our success. Americans have always

succeeded when we invest in those tremendously important principles of

our own founding, the belief that people are valuable. And we continue

to attest to that by our presence in Iraq, by our brave soldiers there.

They believe people are important, as opposed to the terrorists that

say they are mere pawns.