Mr. Speaker, you know, when Ronald Reagan was

President, he told a story of the difference between an optimist and a

pessimist. And he used the example of two little boys who were put into

a room full of horse manure. And the one little boy started crying very

viciously, very seriously, because there were not any toys in the room.

And the other little boy was digging around happy as a lark.

And they asked him, why are you so happy? And he said, with all of

this horse manure in here, there has got to be a pony here somewhere.

The reason Reagan told that story was because he wanted people to

realize that optimism is something that everybody should try to acquire

in their lives and look at the positive things. And during his

administration, he was so optimistic that he changed the whole attitude

of the American people and made the 8 years of his administration a

real success.

I would like to contrast that, if you will, with what we have seen in

the last couple of days. Sixty percent of the people of Iraq went to

the polls to vote knowing that some of them might be killed. A lot of

people wonder if that would happen here in America.

In America we have what, 30, 40, 50 percent of the people vote if we

are very lucky, and we do not have any guns pointed at anybody. And yet

in Iraq these people knew their lives were in jeopardy, and they still

put their finger in that ink and held it up for the people to see in

the cameras so they could take pictures, because they were proud that

they had a chance to show their freedom.

They were optimistic, very optimistic like Ronald Reagan talked

about, for the future of Iraq. And yet last night when I watched the

news, I watched several of the major news networks, and I will not go

into their names tonight, but it is the same people that you hear all

the time.

They were once again pointing out all of the things that went wrong

in Iraq during the elections, and all of the problems that lay ahead of

us, and how this is just a first step in a long series of steps that

have to be taken; and they were not celebrating at all this tremendous

step toward democracy and freedom that took place in one of the

toughest spots in the whole wide world.

And I would just like to say to my friends in the media, that was a

great thing that happened. Sixty percent of the people who lived under

a tyrannical leader for years and years, who suffered torture and

heartache for decades, finally had a chance to vote; and even though

they were doing it with guns being pointed in their direction, people

being blown up, and people being beheaded, they took the chance and

went and voted, 60 percent of them. They are optimists. And I just wish

the national media would realize it and become optimistic themselves.