Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mr. Hyde and Mr. DeLay,

the authors of House Resolution 557, for crafting legislation that

truly exemplifies naked political strategy.

This vapid proposal of phony patriotism does nothing to address the

urgent concerns that are permeating the world stage.

Instead of seeking real solutions to the problems our troops are

confronting; instead of taking the time to exercise judicious oversight

to remedy the hardships that are being faced--we are instead spending a

significant amount of our time indulging ourselves with legislation

that ultimately does not help anyone.

And we are doing this today as Baghdad burns. How typical.

550 American service men and women have been killed in Iraq. No

weapons of mass destruction have been found. Our Nation's reputation

has been damaged to such an extent that former allies now have

populations consumed with anti-American fervor.

Instead of affirming that Saddam Hussein is a bad guy--which we all

know--shouldn't we be spending our time trying to decipher why the

central arguments for a pre-emptive war appear to have been based on

inaccurate intelligence?

Shouldn't we be examining reports regarding how Iraqi exile Ahmad

Chalabi fed misinformation about Weapons of Mass Destruction to the

United States government and investigate why the Pentagon is still

paying him $340,000 a month?

Instead of proclaiming that the world is safer shouldn't we be

analyzing the terrorist attacks in Spain that occurred last week?

And while each and every single Member of Congress is awed and

thankful for the bravery and valor of our men and women in the Armed

Services, shouldn't we be discussing what we can do to help alleviate

the daily deaths and bloodshed that they face?

And shouldn't we, at some stage, focus our attention on Afghanistan

as well?

Wouldn't real action by Congress honor our military more than this?

Wouldn't real action be more patriotic?

Surely the leadership in the House of Representatives can focus on

more important work than a celebratory resolution?