Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15

seconds just to say I do not dispute the figure given by the gentleman

from Pennsylvania. I dispute his logic.

I question the cause-and-effect relationship. Our presence has not

created terrorists. Terrorists were around much before that. In the

instance he cited with previous Presidents, yes, they did react, but

obviously the totality of their reaction did not stop terrorism. We

have a different plan, a different approach. That is what this

President is following.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 1/

2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest respect for the gentleman from

Pennsylvania. When I returned to this House after an absence of 16

years, he was one of the first people to greet me. I have enormous

respect for the work we did together with others here 25 years ago in

fighting common battles.

I have a general disagreement with him on this approach. I don't

question your patriotism. I certainly am attempting not to be

sanctimonious about this. But I think there are some real questions

that we must pose. One of them would be this: I have heard it said from

your side of the aisle that we are attempting to force democracy on

this country, and it will never work.

Look at the three elections they had, the increasing participation.

And, frankly, contrast that with what occurred just this last Tuesday

in the Commonwealth of Virginia, where, for a primary to determine who

the Democratic nominee is going to be for the Senate, 3 percent of the

people showed up, 3 percent of the registered voters.

I would suggest if we were on this floor talking about Iraq where

only 3 percent supported, people would say democracy is a failure. I am

not willing to give up on the Commonwealth of Virginia. I hope we are

not willing to give up on Iraq.

Secondly, the question about Vietnam. And I have the greatest respect

for the gentleman; he served there with distinction, just as my father

served in World War II with distinction. But I would suggest there are

a number of differences between Vietnam and this experience. And one of

the chief ones is this: when we left Vietnam they did not follow us. If

we leave Iraq, the terrorists would follow us.

Some would suggest that it is a shame that we are fighting them

there. I say it is wonderful that we are fighting them there rather

than here.