Mr. Speaker, I know that this is being

carried on C-SPAN, but I think we should broaden our broadcast efforts.

When we did the tax bill last week, I thought eBay should have been

transmitting it. Today I think it really belongs on the Cartoon

Network.

There is much in this resolution I agree with, but what is most

important is what is left out. The gentleman from California, a very

distinguished and thoughtful legislator, although, unfortunately, in

the minority and not in a position to write resolutions, said that it

is our democratic responsibility to express legitimate criticisms of

the administration. I agree. Sadly, because the majority is in control,

there are none of them in this resolution.

This resolution is a cartoon. It describes an Iraq that resembles

nothing as much as Brigadoon. I expect maybe it will appear once every

hundred years. I agree with many of the aspirations of this resolution.

I agree that our troops deserve credit for the terrible situation in

which they have been put. But if one read this resolution and had not

read the newspapers or watched television about Iraq, one would not

know what country was being discussed.

The gentlewoman from California alluded to our congratulating Mr.

Bremer for ably advancing the goals of making Iraq safe, secure,

stable, sovereign, and democratic. The Iraq that is safe, secure,

stable, sovereign, and democratic, are there two countries named Iraq?

Is this Iraq anywhere near the Iraq that we have been worried about? I

wish Iraq could become that. But to congratulate ourselves as if it

already had is simply not accurate.

I am troubled by the procedures we are seeing. The majority obviously

feels concerned that the public no longer shares its view so they have

decided to legislate opinion. They have a pattern now of coming forward

with resolutions which include some things Members agree with, like

support for our troops and aspirations, and then they wrap into that a

lot of misrepresentative, inaccurate descriptions of reality and then

demand that people vote it. We are told if we do not vote for a

resolution that talks about Iraq as a safe, secure, stable, sovereign,

democratic state, that somehow we are not in favor of the troops. It is

a misrepresentation of the situation of Iraq, and a grievous misuse of

the legislative process.