Mr. Speaker, these feel-good resolutions that we passed

last night and are considering today do not change the facts. The facts

are that this country is not united. It is very divided over this war.

The facts are we did not invade Iraq for the purpose of instituting a

democracy. We invaded Iraq because we were told that Iraq threatened us

with weapons of mass destruction and that Iraq was responsible, to some

extent, for collaborating with al Qaeda and producing the catastrophe

of 9/11.

We were misled into Iraq by the administration that either lied to

the American people or led us into war by use of falsehoods stated out

of ignorance. We are told by this resolution that we are creating a

sovereign Iraq now; and, yet, on page 7 of the resolution the American

troops there remain under American command. That is a slight

contradiction. How can Iraq be sovereign when we control the military

over there?

We are told that we are creating a democratic Iraq. Anybody who knows

anything knows we are not going to have a democratic Iraq for many

years, maybe decades. We will be happy to figure out a way to get out

of this quagmire without leaving behind mass chaos, civil war, communal

slaughter and betraying the Kurds a third time. We also know that this

war in Iraq is a diversion from the real war against the Islamic

terrorists who thrust war upon us, a war we must fight but that we are

being diverted from. We know that it is harder to take the necessary

action, if it may be necessary, if a real nuclear threat of nuclear

proliferation arises perhaps in Iran because we cried wolf in Iraq.

How will we persuade Congress or the American people that we have to

do something real if a real threat arises, not a phantom threat that we

reacted to?

Our actions in Abu Ghraib and perhaps elsewhere still to be properly

investigated have shamed this Nation and engendered further hatred of

the United States across the world. So let us not celebrate this

catastrophe. Let us not pass resolutions that do not bear any relation

to the world. Let us figure out how to get out of this catastrophe as

best we can.