Mr. Speaker, let me first say that I have a great deal

of respect for both the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde) and the

gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos) and for the work that they do

here, and there is much in this resolution with which I agree. However,

there is a lot in here that is misleading. In fact, I think that much

of this resolution is an exercise in self-deception as well as an

attempt to deceive others.

Let me just give my colleagues an example. We have here on page 4,

the House of Representatives offers its continued support to the people

and government of Iraq as they deal with the consequences of decades of

misrule by the former regime of Saddam Hussein.

Well, that is interesting and right, but it does not say that we

supported that regime of Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein took office in

1980. It was not more than 3 years later that the government of

President Reagan sent Donald Rumsfeld to Iraq to begin a relationship

with that country, and the relationship resulted in the transfer of

billions of dollars of American material and money to the government of

Saddam Hussein right on up to the advent of the first Gulf War.

Why are we not talking about that in this resolution, how we supplied

the government of Saddam Hussein with money, how we supplied the

government of Saddam Hussein with both conventional, biological and

chemical weapons from the United States, from France, from Germany and

from Chile, all orchestrated by the government under the administration

of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush? Why are we not talking about

that in this resolution?

We are giving our sympathy and our condolences to the innocent people

who were killed in Iraq. What about the innocent people who were killed

unnecessarily as a result of this unjust, unnecessary war?

This is a war that will be a rock around the neck of this country for

decades. It will be a long time before we get over the results of this.

That is particularly true with regard to the treatment of prisoners in

Abu Ghraib and Camp Cropper and others. Why are we not discussing that

in this resolution?

There is much to be embarrassed about. This is not something that we

should congratulate ourselves about. Try not to deceive ourselves

either.