Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of

the Price-Miller resolution.

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans feel increasing frustration with

the contrived reasons given for invading Iraq, with the lack of any

realistic plan for the aftermath of our invasion, and with the

administration's failure to state clearly what has to happen for our

military to come home.

And I feel the same frustration. This administration has said simply

that we should stay the course, but has failed to declare our port of

destination. It is hard to believe that there is a course, that we are

not simply drifting rudderless.

Mr. Speaker, it has become painfully clear that most Iraqis now see

our military, who has served admirably, as an occupying army. Iraqis

believe the United States intends to occupy Iraq on a long-term basis,

and they believe that our government intends to dominate the elected

Iraqi Government, rather than respect that government as the legitimate

government of a fully sovereign nation with control of its own natural

resources, security and public safety.

Iraqi suspicions about our intentions undermine the legitimacy of the

Iraqi Government and fuel the insurgency that continues unabated. Mr.

Speaker, if our presence in Iraq is truly not for Iraq's oil or for a

permanent staging area for our military operations in that part of the

world, we need to say so. We need to state clearly that we do not

intend a long-term occupation of Iraq, and the Iraqis will determine

their own future. We need to say out loud that we will transfer to Iraq

security forces the bases now used by our military, and that we will

maintain no permanent bases or long-term military presence in Iraq.

The Price-Miller resolution calls for more than the platitudes that

we stay the course or finish the job. We demand that the President

state clearly the remaining mission of our military in Iraq, and to

state the time period that the President believes will be required to

accomplish that mission, what needs to happen for our men and women to

come home, and when does the Bush administration think that it will

happen.

Mr. Speaker, there is no better way to persuade the Iraqi people that

we really intend to withdrew than to begin withdrawing. The Price-

Miller resolution calls for a partial withdrawal as soon as possible.

There is still work to be done to help the new Iraqi Government achieve

stability and an enduring democracy, and we need to give new urgency to

those efforts. We need to train Iraq security forces and engage other

nations in that effort. We need to help reconstruction efforts and

provide diplomatic support to the new government. But the referendum

approving the new Constitution gives us an opportunity, an opportunity

we must seize, to change fundamentally what we are fighting for, and

what the Iraqi insurgents are fighting against.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot do that unless we say credibly out loud that

our military is not there to stay.