Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the bill

because I believe it does two critical and important things.

First, it provides $50 billion to finance military withdrawal from

Iraq, to be completed by the end of next year. I voted against the

beginning of the war, and I have consistently tried to end America's

involvement in the war. Saddam Hussein is gone, there were no weapons

of mass destruction, and there was no Iraqi involvement with al Qaeda

or with 9/11. Al Qaeda in Iraq is now in shatters and subject to attack

by both Shiites and Sunnis and poses no ongoing threat to the United

States. We have no stake in the Iraqi civil war, and it is time to end

our occupation.

I signed a letter to the President back in July with over 60 of my

colleagues vowing not to support any more money for the war in Iraq

unless it was for the protection and redeployment of our troops. I

believe this bill is consistent with that commitment. The time has come

to end the war, and the money we provide should be used only for that

purpose.

The second critical thing this bill does is to end torture by the

United States Government. By including in this bill the American Anti-

Torture Act, which was introduced by Representative Delahunt and

myself, we are saying, once and for all, no more torture. The law now

requires the Department of Defense to follow the Army Field Manual,

which bars torture or cruel and inhuman procedures such as

waterboarding. This bill extends these limits to every U.S. government

agency, including the CIA, and ensures a single, uniform, baseline

standard for all interrogations of people under U.S. control. In short,

that means no more waterboarding, no more clever wordplay, no more

evasive answers, and no more uncertainty with regard to what is allowed

and what is not allowed. It is time to restore the honor of the United

States and to force the administration to act in a manner consistent

with the Constitution.

When this bill is passed, the President could have two options: He

could sign this bill and help bring the war in Iraq to a speedy end. Or

he could veto the bill, in which case he will have to explain why he is

denying funds for the troops. But we will not vote for further funding

without a requirement to withdraw the troops as in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, let's end this war and let's end torture. I urge my

colleagues to support this bill.