Mr. Speaker, some refer to this as a bridge fund

connecting monies from one year to the next to finance this Iraq war.

A bridge is built to overcome an obstacle, and the obstacle here is

George Bush. Granting this President 50 billion more dollars without

reasonable restrictions to end this war is just building another bridge

to nowhere.

Today, instead, we use this funding to build a bridge that brings our

troops home by beginning a safe, orderly, phased redeployment from

Iraq.

The President can no longer defy our Constitution as the sole

``decider.'' America has decided that he's wrong, dead wrong, too many

deaths wrong, and it's elected representatives in this Congress are now

declaring ``no more blank checks.''

Despite the sacrifices of our troops in this deadliest year of the

war, this surge has failed completely to achieve its purpose of

political progress. ``Retreat,'' you say; you've had a 5-year retreat

from political reality. Progress, you say; not in Iraq, not in

political reconciliation; progress, perhaps only in your self-defeating

propaganda as you repeatedly waved your ``mission accomplished''

banner.

The continued cost of this war in hemorrhaged blood and $3 billion of

taxpayer money every week is not acceptable or sustainable.

Mr. President, no more ``cut-and-run''. We will not cut these

reasonable restrictions from this legislation, and we will not run from

your veto threat.