Mr. Speaker, this is about whether or not we

continue to fund the worst foreign policy fiasco in American history.

This is not about al Qaeda. In fact, if we had gone after al Qaeda

when we had the opportunity, they wouldn't have been able to strengthen

themselves in Pakistan and Afghanistan. But we've been diverted over to

Iraq, where al Qaeda didn't even exist until our invasion gave them a

recruitment tool and rallying cry.

And sure there's less violence in Baghdad, but the reason is because

the Shiia have ethnically cleansed much of Baghdad. When we started, 60

percent of Baghdad was Sunni. Now, almost 80 percent of Baghdad is

Shiia.

And the reason there's less violence in al-Anbar province is because

the Sunni warlords have taken it upon themselves to drive out the al

Qaeda insurgents.

Our military generals have told us this war does not lend itself to a

military victory. The most we can do is to step up our diplomatic

efforts.

But the fact is that we are supporting a government that doesn't

deserve our support. It is not representative of the people of Iraq. It

is endemically corrupt. And the reality is that when we look back and

ask ourselves what have we accomplished, we are going to look at a

government which is far more loyal to Iran than it is to the United

States. That's what we've done, to empower our enemies.

We've created chaos throughout the Middle East. And isn't it time now

to have a plan to start withdrawing our troops, to tell our military

families that they have sacrificed as much as we could possibly expect

of them?

But the reality is that this policy has never been worthy of the

sacrifice of our soldiers and their military families.

And if you really believed in what you're doing in this war, you

would support Mr. Obey's attempt to pay for it. Not one dime of this

war has been paid for. It's all been borrowed, borrowed from our

children and our grandchildren. They deserve better and this bill is

the best thing we can do for them right now.