Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a course

correction in foreign policy. The bills before us today reflect the

will of the American people and the reality on the ground.

We have invested 4 years in a war that was predicated upon the

fantasy that Iraq would, Iraq could, become a bastion of democracy

without a massive investment of time, talent, and treasure. This

President had no plan to win the war he wanted to fight. He had no

strategy to finish the job he started.

We must bind the wounds of a Nation that has lost over 3,300 men and

women in a war precipitated by the arrogance of an administration that

made decisions based upon the world they wanted instead of the world

that is. We must extract ourselves from what has become a civil war in

Iraq. We must stand up to a President that is so insulated that members

of his own party cannot even persuade him to change course.

I have stood in this Chamber to mourn the passing of fallen heroes.

Sadly, but most assuredly, I will stand here again to mourn more.

But today I stand here asking you to explore your own conscience and

stand up for our country, our families, and our troops. Let us renew

our commitment to making the difficult choices we were sent here to

make, and let us begin today.