Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read excerpts from a letter about Iraq.

It reads as follows:

``I am deeply concerned about Iraq. The task you have given me is

becoming really impossible . . . incompetent Arab officials are

disturbing some of the provinces in failing to collect revenue. We have

overpaid almost half a million [dollars] on last year's account, which

it is almost certain Iraq will not be able to pay this year, thus

entailing a Supplementary Estimate in regard to a matter never

sanctioned by [the legislative body]; a further deficit, in spite of

large economies, is nearly certain this year on the civil expenses

owing to the drop in revenue. I have had to maintain . . . troops at

Mosul all through the year in consequence of the Angora quarrel: This

has upset the programme of reliefs and will certainly lead to further

expenditures . . . In my own heart, I do not see what we are getting

out of it.

``I think we should now put definitely . . . to the Constituent

Assembly the position that, unless they beg us to stay and stay on our

own terms in regard to efficient control, we shall actually evacuate

before the close of the financial year. I would put this issue in the

most brutal way, and if they are not prepared to urge us to stay and to

cooperate in every manner, I would actually clear out.

``Surveying all the above, I think I must ask you for definite

guidance at this stage as to what you wish and what you are prepared to

do. The victories of the [opposition] will increase our difficulties

throughout the [region]. At present, we are paying . . . millions a

year for the privilege of living on an ungrateful volcano out of which

we are in no circumstances to get anything worth having.''

That is a letter written by Winston Churchill in 1922 to David Lloyd

George. I would suggest not very much has changed since then.

I do not know if the timetable in this bill is exactly the correct

timetable or not. What I do know is that I intend to vote for every

responsible action that I can take that will increase pressure on this

administration and on the government of Iraq and the politicians of

Iraq so that they both finally understand there must be a change in

policy; there must be a recognition that our troops do not have the

capacity to produce the political compromises that are necessary to end

this carnage. That power is only in the hands of American politicians

and Iraqi politicians. It is about time we get about the business of

using it and insisting that the Iraqis use it.

I would urge support for this proposition.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know why we should be surprised that we are

divided as a Nation when in fact we have an administration whose

governing principle has been to govern by dividing.

I would simply observe that there are some Members of this body

evidently and some members of the administration who are willing to

fight to the last drop of somebody else's blood. We are not, and that

is why we are here with this proposal today.

I now yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

Murtha).

Mr. Speaker, this recommittal motion is something that we

have seen for approximately 5 minutes. I think it is a dubious

proposition to be voting on something this serious with less than 10

minutes of consideration.

But upon a cursory reading of it, it is apparent that the purpose of

this proposition is simply to prevent people from voting on the

underlying bill. It is designed to gut the bill by adding two

additional conditions that would enable our troops to stay in Iraq

indefinitely. Those conditions make reference to the regional security

of the Middle East and the national security interest of the United

States. That language is so broad that virtually any deployment of any

armed force could be justified under that language.

It is obvious that would in fact essentially gut the proposal, and so

I would urge a ``no'' vote on the motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from

Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern).