Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, I would not have voted for this

resolution. Two years ago, I would not have voted for this resolution.

One year ago, I would have voted for this resolution. But after seeing

no progress in Iraq, none, zero, having misrepresentation coming from

even the Pentagon, I am beginning to believe it is time that we have to

send a very strong message to this administration.

The total number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq is 3,382. Killed since

President Bush announced his surge is 366. We have lost more people in

the last 4 months than we lost in any other period of the war, and that

doesn't count the number that have been wounded, and all of us have

been out there and seen the ones that have been wounded.

The foreign minister of Saudi Arabia in The New York Times last week

said, ``We don't see anything happening in Iraq in implementation. Our

American friends say there is improvement; improvement in violence,

improvement in the level of understanding, improvement in disarming the

militia. We don't see it.''

Admiral Fallon, he is the new commander in Iraq, the central

commander. Admiral Fallon said last week in the Senate Armed Services

Committee, ``Prime Minister Maliki's progress thus far has been

disappointing. They are not moving, in my opinion, fast enough to

support what we are trying to do. The number one question in my mind is

the ability as well as the willingness to do this.''

Now, I said to the Iraqi National Security Adviser when he was here

visiting me, I said, Look. I said, Originally we need a diplomatic

effort, an international diplomatic effort. I urged him to change the

Constitution. I urged him to pass a bill to spread out the oil

revenues.

He said, Well, it's a slow procedure, and he started talking about

how we needed to stay, and he talked about the war, he didn't call it a

civil war, the insurgency and the al Qaeda.

I said, There is 2,000 al Qaeda. You don't think you can take care of

2,000 al Qaeda when you have in your country 26 million people? I said,

Let me tell you a story. My great-grandfather's Civil War hat sits on

that shelf there. And I took it out and I showed him that. We fought

our own civil war. And then I said, My ancestors fought in the

Revolutionary War. They were rag-tag. They didn't have shoes. They

fought in cold weather without cold-weather gear. They fought the

greatest army in the history at that time, the greatest navy in the

history at that time, the greatest empire in history at that time, and

we beat them. We beat them by ourselves, with a little help from the

French.

You have to do this yourself, I said to the National Security Adviser

for Iraq. You have to win this yourself. We can't do it for you. I

said, Your Parliament takes a 2-month vacation in the middle of a time

when it is crucial to the history.

The American people, three-fourths of them, are unhappy with what is

going on. The Congress more and more. Even some of our Republican

friends need to help us convince this President that we need to move in

the right direction, we need to change the direction of this war. I see

in a news release that the President is now, after all this time,

considering benchmarks. After all this time, the President of the

United States is saying I'll consider benchmarks. He finally is

starting to compromise. He has come off the pedestal and the President

is starting to begin to realize that something has to be done to change

the direction of this country.

All of us want to solve this. All of us want stability in the Middle

East. All of us want to do the right thing. But it is not working.

Electricity production, below pre-war level. Oil production, below pre-

war level. It has been that way for the last 4 1/2 years. Incidents

are up. If you look at the way the incidents have gone, every month

they have gone up. They have gone down a little bit, but they have gone

up the whole time. And more Americans were killed in the last 4 months

than any other period during this war.

We need to change direction. We need to send a message. We need to go

to conference and have some kind of a conversation with the White House

so that they understand. I am glad to see some Republicans went to the

White House and spoke the truth to this President and said to him, Mr.

President, we need a change. You are destroying the Republican Party.

Well, that is one of those things where I won't go there.

But let me say this: we need to have a strong vote. We need to vote

for this resolution, and then we need to pass the other bill and get on

with our business.