Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlelady who spoke just before me, our respected

Speaker, is a person I have worked with for most of my life in public

affairs. Our Speaker suggested that the President was wrong, and, Mr.

Speaker, I humbly suggest that in this instance, our esteemed Speaker

is wrong.

Madam Speaker, it was no secret that this conference report was going

to be vetoed. Early on, the President made very clear his intention to

veto this legislation because of the Iraq withdrawal language and the

many unrelated and costly spending items that have absolutely nothing

to do with the global war on terror and recovery efforts on the gulf

coast.

It is no secret that many Members of the House and Senate, both

Republicans and Democrats, had strong reservations about the manner in

which this legislation undermined the authority of the President, our

Commander in Chief.

From the beginning of this process, Members have expressed their

concern about how this legislation placed military decisions in the

hands of politicians rather than military commanders in the field. The

last thing our country or our troops need is to have 535 Members and

Senators micromanaging the war in Iraq. That simply is not our job,

Madam Speaker.

Recent history reminds us that the enemy we face in Iraq, Afghanistan

and in other countries that harbor terrorists will stop at nothing to

attack the United States and our allies.

My colleagues, now is not the time for the United States to back down

from its commitment to the war on terror. Now is not the time for

America to signal retreat and surrender. Indeed, now is not the time

for the House of Representatives to throw in the towel, wave the white

flag or signal retreat and surrender in Iraq.

How could this Congress walk away from our men and women in uniform?

How could we walk away from them now? We must not let that happen. We

must support our troops. Our failure to learn the lessons of history,

our failure to lead, will result in devastating consequences, including

an even greater loss of life and even more resources needed to fight

tomorrow.

It is absolutely essential that America, the last remaining

superpower on Earth, continue to be a voice for peace and a beacon of

freedom in our shrinking world. Walking away would further signal to

Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, and others that the United States is no

longer committed to a successful outcome in Iraq.

Before closing my remarks, I want to express my disappointment and

dismay at yesterday's political and theatrical display by Speaker

Pelosi and Senator Reid.

The delivery of this conference report to the White House was

intentionally delayed so the President's veto would coincide with the

fourth anniversary of the President declaring ``Mission Accomplished.''

This display in sending the supplemental to the President was a

deliberate and shameful attempt at scoring political points solely at

the expense of our troops.

Mr. Speaker, this veto has been anticipated for some time. The

majority party has had ample time to plan and prepare for the next

step. Passing a clean supplemental free of arbitrary deadlines and

excessive spending is obviously the path we should be following.

There is $20 billion, $20 billion, in this package unrelated to the

war effort and the gulf coast recovery. That money is designated as

emergency spending. Every nickel of this unrelated spending should be

removed from the emergency supplemental. All this spending should be

debated in regular order through the fiscal year 2008 appropriations

process.

In closing, I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle:

You've made your point. You've had your dog-and-pony show. You have

posed for political holy pictures on TV. Now what is your plan to

support the troops?

It is time to put the posturing and political stunts aside and do

what is in the best interest of our troops. It is time to do the right

thing and pass a clean emergency supplemental free of arbitrary

deadlines and arbitrary spending. It is time to support our Commander

in Chief and sustain the President's veto. I strongly urge a ``no''

vote.

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