Madam Speaker, I would at this point like to thank

Mr. Mike Turner for working with us and the committee, right from the

get-go, and also Mr. Phil English as well, to demonstrate what we have

been saying here that Republicans alone, Democrats alone cannot bring

this to an end. It requires us all to work together.

Now, there are some, I am sorry to say, on both ends of the spectrum

of the parties who want to diminish what the bill is all about and what

its intent is all about. Someone went so far yesterday as to say, well,

this bill is like naming post offices.

Well, yesterday, we named two post offices for marines that were

killed in Iraq. I don't suppose the author of that kind of commentary

would like to speak with the family of the marines who have been killed

about why these post offices were named.

I think it's pretty important that we concentrate on those who are

bearing the brunt of the policies that we approve of in this body.

That's what this is all about. We want to end the party sniping. We

want to end the commentary about advantages being taken from one party

or another.

Cover has been mentioned, about whether it would be given to one

party or another. The only cover that we are interested in is the cover

that has to be obtained by our fighting men and women in the field,

because they are engaged in battle as a result of the policies that we

either approve or disapprove of.

It's time for the Congress to take back its responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the Record a commentary

from the Government Accountability Office as of the end of July of this

year.

What issues will the Department of Defense consider in the planning

and executing of the draw-down and redeployment of forces from Iraq? It

includes the draw-down, scope, the costs, the timetable, the capacity

issues, logistics issues. These are the serious and sober subjects of

what will be presented to us by these redeployment plans.

You cannot have a redeployment by wish fulfillment alone. You have to

have the practical realities in front of you in order to accomplish it.

That's what we are seeking to do. That's what the Armed Services

Committee on a bipartisan basis sought to accomplish with this bill.

This is serious and sober business.

Section two of the measure states the strategy required ``shall

include planning to achieve the following.'' That's what we mean by the

status of the planning. Status of the planning will include the

transition of combat forces from policing civil strife or sectarian

violence in Iraq.

It has to include a projection in the number of members the Armed

Forces required for the missions described in the redeployment. The

details of what these redeployment plans will encompass are included in

the bill, and so the preamble that is there that says the original

resolution has now been accomplished takes us to this final conclusion

that we reach today, the redeployment of our troops in a responsible

way and a bipartisan manner.