Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend

from California for the time.

I rise to strongly oppose this rule and the underlying legislation

that is being brought to the floor. For obviously substantive grounds,

I oppose the legislation being brought to the floor.

I think that we are at a decisive time, more even than a critical

time, a decisive time in the conflict in Iraq. And I think that now to

be substantively, as this legislation does, tying the hands of our

military personnel and, in effect, saying, well, if things don't go

totally appropriately, totally correctly, if they don't go right, then

you must withdraw.

And I think about other wars in the past and what would have happened

if we would have had those kinds of requisites. If we had tied the

hands of the military leaders in the past, there would have been

disaster then. There would be disaster now if this legislation passes.

And for procedural reasons also, Mr. Speaker, I am strongly against

this legislation. As strongly as I oppose some of the amendments that

were brought forth to the Rules Committee, I supported the right of

Members to bring forth those ideas and have them considered, but the

majority in the Rules Committee rejected them.

During the time that we were in the majority, we never brought a

wartime supplemental bill to this floor with a closed rule. It is

unfortunate that the majority is doing so today.

For the substantive reasons that I have mentioned and many others,

Mr. Speaker, as well as the significant procedural reasons that I have

touched upon, that this House is being closed down with regard to the

ability to present amendments today, I urge rejection of this rule as

well as of the legislation being brought forth today.