Mr. Speaker, this war was launched without an imminent

threat to our families. It endangers them more every day, creating new

generations of terrorists. Radical ``know it all'' ideologues here in

Washington bent facts, distorted intelligence, and perpetrated lies

designed to mislead the American people into believing that a third

rate thug had a hand in the 9/11 tragedy and was soon to unleash a

mushroom cloud.

From the start, House Democrats overwhelmingly voted against this

war. But radical ideologues rushed headlong anyway, ignoring

professional military advice about the number of troops and equipment

needed. One general after another has indicted this Administration for

its misjudgment and mismanagement.

But now, almost 3,000 Americans lie dead, with about another 20,000

seriously injured. Every day, every single day, American taxpayers are

forced to spend $229 million in Iraq, and they pay again every time

they go to the gas pump. All that is in sight is an endless, civil war

quagmire.

Today's resolution pins these Administration failures on the

coattails of our courageous servicemen and women. Administration

ineptness is falsely attached to a resolution honoring our troops.

Americans are increasingly realizing there is a better way to honor

our troops than by sending more of them off to be killed. Would that

there were more than a little of our troops' courage right here in

Washington from those, who refuse to challenge this Administration's

arrogant, myth-based policies and who choose instead to cut and run

from their responsibilities.

Instead of staying the course, we need to chart a smarter course. It

is not weakness or retreat to recognize the Administration offers us

only an endless ``spend and bleed'' policy.

When this talkathon ends, reject this fraudulent resolution, which

cannot be amended or changed, to alter this Administration's deadly

pursuit of a desert mirage. Neither paper resolutions, nor more

Administration arrogance will defeat terrorism.

The harm from this Administration's disastrous decision to invade

Iraq was apparent from the beginning. The warnings of many, as noted in

my speeches, including those given on the floor on September 22, 2002

(H6410), October 9, 2002 (H7328), and October 10, 2002 (H7772), and the

contemporaneous editorial below, went unheeded.