Mr. Speaker, this rule, which I support, will allow one

of the most critical actions to date in the war on terror. Hardly a

charade.

This action is not military in nature. It is entirely political. But

it will determine victory or defeat as surely as any battle in Iraq.

Our troops can defeat any enemy on earth. Our volunteers, our

patriots, our heroes, our warriors, under any conditions they can win

if we have the will, if we have the backbone to do what is right.

That is what we debate under this rule. Do we have the will to win?

Many, not all, of the other side of the aisle lack the will to win.

The American people need to know precisely who they are. If there are

any on this side of the aisle who hold the same view, this will allow

them to be found out as well. Then the public can decide the course of

this war in November by hopefully throwing the defeatists out of

office.

This debate, under the rule, is as critical a fight as any our troops

could have on the battlefield. No one has any doubt our soldiers will

win any fight we send them to. That is not the question. The world's

doubt is entirely over the backbone of this Congress.

Because of the statements of Members of this body, not their votes,

but what they say today, and of the Senate, that have given substantial

propaganda assistance to the enemy, this rule, this debate is

absolutely essential to preserving the victories of our troops that

they have won with their blood and their lives.

It is time to stand up and vote. Is it al Qaeda or is it America? Let

the voters take note of this debate.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the 173rd Airborne in 1968-69 Vietnam, I

saw how the words of Senators and Congressmen undermine the hard-fought

victories and sacrifices of our soldiers.

Men who today sit in Congress publicly trashed the troops on the

front back then, comparing our American soldiers to the barbarian

Genghis Khan.

American media overlooked decades of Communist torture and atrocity

against Vietnamese civilians. I couldn't overlook it. As a dental

surgeon I had to reattach the tongues cut out by Viet Cong terrorists.

Where was our media? They instead chose to focus the world's

attention on isolated American failure at My Lai.

Through carefully planned international media and political

manipulations, the NVA and Viet Cong were encouraged to keep fighting,

regardless of their defeats in the field. American media fell right

into line with the enemy's public affairs plan.

Our troops and citizens were told over and over by the press and

politicians that their efforts were futile, our countless victories

pointless, and every reverse, no matter how slight, disastrous.

The result of this psychological warfare was that the same Nation

that had prevailed in World War II against heavy odds, numerous battle

defeats, and our enemies' military parity, simply walked off the field

in Southeast Asia.

It was a lesson in strategy our enemies have learned well, one that

is now being used against us in Iraq.

It is of great interest to note that the same reporter who ``broke''

the story on My Lai also ``broke'' the story on Abu Grahib nearly four

decades later--while overlooking the thousands of executions,

beheadings, and other atrocities of the enemy.

Coincidence or planned strategy?

Same players, same actions, seeking the same result--unconditional

U.S. withdrawal from a war on terror we didn't start, allowing

barbarians to slaughter millions of innocent civilians, with the end

result our Nation humiliated and compromised on the world stage.

The lesson we should have learned from Vietnam is that we can fight

our enemies in this House by sending an unmistakable message that

America will not run.

The day that our enemies in Iraq believe this, the war will be won.

It's time for this body to start fighting for our soldiers.

The 173rd has been back in action in this war, and I will be darned

if I will let what happened to us in Southeast Asia happen to these

guys in the Middle East, if I can help it.

Let's finally bury the ghosts of Vietnam by committing to victory. In

doing so, we greatly reduce the need for future military action, as

potential enemies will no longer doubt our national resolve in a

showdown.