Mr. Speaker, I rise today in outrage over reports that

Speaker Pelosi is threatening to revoke committee assignments and

earmarks for Democrats who don't support the Iraq supplemental bill on

the floor this week.

Talk about a culture of corruption. This is the lowest form of

politics. But, sadly, while their strong-arming is audacious and

unethical, it is not surprising. We know the Democratic leadership will

go to extreme measures to garner votes for this bill, not only by tying

troop funding to arbitrary deadlines for withdrawal, but by peppering

it with so much pork, you would think our troops needed shrimp and

avocados to beat the terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, it is little wonder Democratic leaders are scared to let

Members vote their conscience on this bill. After all, even the Los

Angeles

Times calls this

But arm-twisting and threats have no place in this people's House,

and Americans have every right to be outraged with the current

leadership.