Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my colleague from

California (Ms. Woolsey) on the 100th occasion of speaking on this very

important subject.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. Woolsey) has maintained a

drumbeat of truth on one of the most important issues, probably the

most important issue, facing our Nation. It is a most important moral

issue. It is the most important political issue also. It is moral

because human life is sacred, and too many souls have already been

destroyed in this war on both sides, on all sides.

The insurgent fanatics who seem to be growing unlimited are not

really that powerful. Insurgent fanatics do not have the support of the

majority of the people. A clearly articulated plan for withdrawal will

drastically decrease the clusters of support that the fanatic killers

have. If people could see the movement towards some progress in

resolving this problem, they would abandon the fanatics at a faster

rate.

Let us propose a plan. And I do not disagree with any of the plans

and proposals that have been made by my colleague, the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. Woolsey) in her 100 presentations, or plans that have

been made by my other colleagues. I think that we have enough

brainpower in America with our think tanks and our various academic

circles, et cetera, to come up with a plan which really can work.

I want to just add that in that plan should be some more open

discussion and honest discussion of oil, the oil wealth of Iraq. Too

little is being said about the oil wealth of Iraq and what is going to

happen to the oil wealth of Iraq. The people of Iraq, the different

factions, I think, would begin to react differently if they heard from

America a clear statement of how we propose to fairly divide the oil

wealth of Iraq.

First, they will want to hear that we are not going to take a

disproportionate amount in investment returns and technical assistance

fees, et cetera. That is the first thing they want to hear. But the

biggest things for the Kurds, the Sunnis, and the Shiites is how will

the oil well be divided as they draw boundaries for sectors or

provinces or states or whatever they are going to do in their

constitution to divide up the nation.

I think we ought to put on the table, tell the Sunnis, the Kurds, and

the Shiites that the oil wells will be fairly shared by all revenue

benefits being assigned on a per capita basis, regardless of ethnicity

or geographic location; that the revenue, the profits, are going to be

divided equally on a per capita basis. So if one area of the country

occupied by the Kurds has a certain population, they will get according

to the population their share of the oil no matter where the wells are

located. No matter where the oil wells are located, those who live in

Baghdad, whether Shiite or Sunnis, their particular sector would get a

share of the oil revenues also.

I think it is also important because it is necessary to draw some

boundaries in this constitutional process, and they will be drawing

boundaries. Whether by state or by provinces or whatever, there are

going to be boundaries; and there is a need to have some kind of

understanding that concentrations of ethnic groups or concentrations of

religious affiliations need to be respected. So there will be a

necessity to draw some sectors that have a majority of Sunnis,

necessity to draw boundaries which have a majority of Shiites, et

cetera with the Kurds.

This nation was held together, I think, partially due to the

principle that it was divided up into states so that many different

kinds of personalities and groups could express themselves through a

state process when the states were more independent and the national

government was less of an entity. I think the same process would hold

in the case of Iraq. We should have a chance for groups to express

themselves for local decision-making to be maximized in those areas, in

those sectors.

But, overall, they should understand they are not going to be starved

for revenue, that the riches underneath the Earth in Iraq are going to

be available to every group no matter where they are located.

I think it is up to us to have that kind of honest discussion. There

is too little talk about exactly what we are going to do about the oil

in Iraq, and too many whispers and too many rumors about our having

some kind of hidden agenda that is not to the benefit of Iraq. Let us

tell the people of Iraq what we are going to do with the oil.