Mr. Speaker, Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan,

criticized the U.S. in a graduation speech in Boston on Sunday. He said

the U.S. had ``the power and hence the responsibility'' to get involved

in Afghanistan even before the tragic events we refer to as 9/11.

President Karzai said because the U.S. did not get involved sooner, the

result was ``horrible suffering for the Afghan people.''

This is a man who was given a hero's welcome at the White House, the

State and Defense Departments, and the World Bank just yesterday. This

is a man who was a special guest at two joint sessions of Congress.

This is a man who probably would not be president today if not for the

U.S., and to whom our taxpayers have given billions of dollars since

September of 2001.

It takes a lot of gall for President Karzai to come to the U.S. and

blame us for the horrible suffering of the Afghan people because we did

not get involved in Afghanistan in a big way before 2001.

Since 2001, U.S. taxpayers have sent billions to Afghanistan for

economic, humanitarian, and reconstruction assistance. We have sent

several hundreds of millions of dollars each year, in addition to what

the military is spending, and most of what the military is doing in

Iraq and Afghanistan is pure foreign aid. No country in the history of

the world has even come close to doing as much for other countries as

has the United States. No country in the history of the world has even

come close to doing as much for Afghanistan as has the United States.

Yet President Karzai comes here and makes a major speech and instead of

thanking the American people over and over, as he should have, he

criticizes us for not getting involved sooner.

Just yesterday, the front page of The Washington Post carried a story

about the parents of Pat Tillman who was killed by friendly fire in

Afghanistan. The parents bitterly attacked the Army for lying and

covering up the details of their son's death, and they have every right

to do so. Pat Tillman's dad said, ``They blew up their poster boy'' and

then lied about it to create a ``patriotic fervor'' in the U.S.

I voted to go to war in Afghanistan because I and everyone but one in

Congress felt we had to respond to 9/11, but we should have gotten out

of there after 3 or 4 months; and if we had, Pat Tillman would still be

alive today.

I voted against going to war in Iraq because, among many other

reasons, Saddam Hussein's total military budget was only a little over

two-tenths of 1 percent of ours, and he was no threat to us whatsoever.

It is no criticism of the military to say this was a totally

unnecessary war.

Unless conservatives now believe in massive foreign aid, huge deficit

spending, world government and placing almost the entire burden of

enforcing U.N. resolutions on our taxpayers and our military, all

things that conservatives have opposed in the past, then conservatives

should want us to get out of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

William F. Buckley, Jr., the godfather of conservatism, wrote a

column a few days ago saying it is now time to exit Iraq. Many leaders

of our military will want us to stay in Iraq and Afghanistan for many

years so they can get higher and higher appropriations. But in a few

months, our national debt will reach $9 trillion. By the end of this

fiscal year, we will have spent over $300 billion in Iraq and

Afghanistan and probably another $100 billion in the coming fiscal year

which starts October 1.

Mr. Speaker, seven more Americans were killed in Iraq yesterday. Our

colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. Taylor), just told me

that four guardsmen from his State were killed today. Already this

month has been one of the bloodiest of the entire war. The headlines on

the front page of the Washington Times says: ``Car bombings kill scores

across Iraq.''

Our Founding Fathers did not intend for us to run Iraq or Afghanistan

or any other country. Our first obligation should be to the American

people and no one else. We should be friends to other countries, but we

cannot afford to continue spending hundreds of billions all over the

world.

In just a few years we will not be able to pay our own people all the

Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, drug costs, military and civil

service and private pensions that we have promised. To stay any longer

in Iraq or Afghanistan goes against every traditional conservative

position. We can no longer afford it in either blood or treasury.