Madam Speaker, I want the previous speaker to know that

I think I can get a Members tour for both of us to the White House if

my friend wants to join me sometime. I will get back with the gentleman

from Washington on that.

I want to say in Iraq this weekend, it was a historic and very

significant day: over 60 percent voter turnout to adopt a new

constitution; less violence than ever before on the election compared

to June; greater participation by everybody, including the Sunni

minority.

It is my hope that the constitution will pass and that in December we

will have an election and the new government will take hold. And under

that new government, their troops, of which we have trained 177,000,

can start taking a bigger role in the war and then our troops can step

back and draw down.

Last weekend was very significant. It is too bad the press is

begrudgingly only covering good stuff when it comes to Iraq, but do not

let the day go by without realizing its significance. A great election,

great participation, less violence, a significant step towards

democracy.