Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Democrats' plan

for Iraq. Last week, following the Thanksgiving holiday, I spent a

considerable amount of my time with constituents listening to their

concerns and discussing a whole array of issues from gas prices, to the

new prescription drug benefit, to the war in Iraq.

However, Mr. Speaker, some on the other side of the aisle used their

time parading on comedy shows decrying the current operation in Iraq

and scoring big laughs at the expense of our troops. I believe this

further undermines the argument of those who would claim that an

immediate withdrawal from Iraq is a noble course of action.

During her big debut on ``Comedy Central,'' the minority leader

bragged that ``60 percent of the House Democrats voted against the war

to begin with,'' and compared to other Democrats, were ``way ahead of

the issue.''

I imagine that statement probably does not sit well with our troops

in the field. And, Mr. Speaker, for the other 40 percent of my

Democratic colleagues who might also take exception to this statement,

I recommend that they discuss their concern with the minority leader.