Mr. Speaker, I am indignant, I am insulted, and I am

embarrassed that no one came to me and asked me about this resolution.

Nobody said, Do you have any input? Nobody has supported this war. The

gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis) and I put a bill on this floor

that only 16 people voted against. And I am embarrassed that my

colleague would come up with a partisan resolution saying whatever was

said without any consultation to the Democrats, particularly me, who

has voted so strongly for the defense of this country.

I go home and people criticize me for my position on the war. One

fellow said to me, Never in history have so many been misled by so few.

And, unfortunately, he was talking about me. He believed that I had

misled him. I believed there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

I believed there was imminent danger to this country. And the reason we

go to war is because there is a core danger to our national security.

We do not go to war because they drained the swamps in Iraq.

I do not think anybody needs to question the Congress who supports

the troops in Iraq or anyplace else. We voted continuously and

overwhelmingly for the troops. We have tried to make sure they had what

they needed, even though there were mistakes made in the original

deployment.

There were many shortages that we saw. And we made sure when we went

over there, a number of us went over there, we found those shortages,

reported them to the Department of Defense; and we started to rectify

those shortages.

We know there were changes that before our subcommittee an Under

Secretary of Defense came forward and said this war will cost nothing.

This war will be paid for by the oil revenues of the Iraqis. We know

that in the last war our allies came up with $60 billion. We know that

this time we have come up with $150 billion to pay for this war from

the United States. We are paying much of the expense of the allies in

this war.

This is not the time to divide the country. We are talking about we

have got the lowest level of support internationally than we have ever

had. All the polls indicate that overseas we are discredited. We are

discredited because they do not believe what we say.

It is hard to comprehend. I read not long ago where Dean Acheson went

to France and he went to France to talk about the Cuban missile crisis.

And when he went to France, he said, I have got proof. He talked to

President de Gaulle, and President de Gaulle was not one of our best

supporters. He said, I have got photos here which will show you that we

have missiles in Cuba. This was during the missile crisis. President de

Gaulle said, I do not need to see those photos. I will take the word of

the President of the United States.

Now, that is the problem we face. We need to come together. I hope

that this resolution will be withdrawn and that we will change a few

words in it that would make it unified for the whole country.

For instance, is it safer today in Spain? Is it safer in the Middle

East? These are the things that I worry about. Just by putting

something on paper you cannot say it is safe. It is just like the

President, I am sure he thought the war was over when he said the war

is over. I am sure when he made the announcement he thought the war was

over, but that does not make it over. And putting it on paper does not

mean that we are out of this with this conflict.

We need the support of allies. We need the support, the solid support

of this Congress. This is a long-term fight. I had members of the State

Department over before with me in my office and they were telling me

about the transition. This is going to be a very, very difficult

transition. I do not say it was a shotgun wedding, but I would say we

put together something where it is going to be very difficult to get

the Iraqi people to agree when you have the divisions that you have in

Iraq.

So we are going to need everybody's support, not only in Congress;

but we are going to need the people of the world's support because it

is such a difficult issue for us to face.

I am in it for the long run. Any money that they need, any equipment

they need, anything they need, I am going to be there in front, the

gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis) and I, and all the rest of the

committee and all the rest of the Members of Congress. Because

everybody wants to support the troops. But you put it on paper, it does

not mean that the troops are safer.

Now, I had two young women come to my office. Both of them had lost

their husbands. One had two children, one had one child. I have lost

six from my district. And they are from a very poor family. And they

came in and they went to Walter Reed and they took gifts out to the

wounded at Walter Reed.

Many of us have been out there. The gentleman from Florida (Mr.

Young) has been out there; the gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis)

has been out there. All of us have been out to Walter Reed. And this

one young woman, 22 years old with a child said, You know, I got

married, I got pregnant. Then my husband was deployed and I had a baby.

He was killed and I had a baby. She said, I should not have to live my

whole life in one year.

We support the troops. All of us support the troops. But we cannot

get up here and divide the Nation at this time. This should be a

bipartisan resolution. And I would hope we will be able to work that

out so that everyone can vote for a resolution that shows this great

country is united.