Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of

my time.

Mr. Speaker, the last speaker, who is my good friend and the

chairperson of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the

ranking member of the Committee on Rules on which he and I serve, just

made the comment that he was not consulted. I say to my good friend

that he is an original cosponsor of the legislation: the gentleman from

Illinois (Mr. Hyde), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DeLay), the

gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Blunt), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms.

Pryce), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss), and the gentleman from

California (Mr. Hunter).

Now, that said, my good friend had the privilege that the gentleman

from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr.

Skelton) did not have, and that was even to be original co-sponsors

even if they were not consulted.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for a ``no'' vote on the previous

question because I feel this totally closed rule is just plain wrong.

There is not one single opportunity for any Member of the House to

offer an amendment to this resolution, not even on the motion to

recommit.

Oddly enough, when the current House Republican leadership was in the

minority, a motion to recommit without instructions was one of the

things they complained most about. Now, here they are doing the very

thing they said was so wrong and offensive at that time. Where will the

sanctimony end?

The war in Iraq is one of the most serious issues facing our Nation

today. Anything that speaks to this matter on the floor of the U.S.

House of Representatives should be done, as the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) said, in a way that allows all responsible

viewpoints to be considered. That is what democracy is all about.

This rule simply gags that process. Ironic, do you not think, when we

are exporting democracy to Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about stopping consideration of the

underlying resolution. I am not aware of one single Member of this body

who does not support and praise the incredibly brave men and women who

are in harm's way in Iraq.

I believe we can all agree wholeheartedly on supporting our soldiers,

but there are other important matters that are not addressed in this

resolution, issues that many in this House want to include in this

resolution.

Therefore, if the previous question is defeated, I will offer an

amendment to the rule that will allow the motion to recommit to contain

instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit for the Record

immediately prior to the vote on the previous question a description of

the motion to recommit that will be offered if the previous question is

defeated and the rule is amended to allow instructions.