Mr. Speaker, one observes today the discussions

taking place in the press by members of the Armed Services with respect

to whether or not political considerations are involved in whether we

can attack or not attack, whether we retreat or do not retreat, whether

we engage in collaborative activity with insurgents with regard to the

possible upcoming elections, or whether we regard them as criminals to

be taken and prosecuted, perhaps even shot and killed.

Those issues do not know a Democratic or a Republican origin. Those

young soldiers, and some not so young soldiers from the Guard and

Reserve, are not making distinctions between Republican oratory and

Democratic accusations with respect to this election. This issue has to

be decided on November 2. The people of this Nation have to come to a

conclusion electorally as to whether or not they want the present

direction to go on or whether they want to move in a new direction.

I contend and I tell Members this as a member of the Committee on

Armed Services, a committee on which we do our level best to subsumed

and submerge our partisan differences, yes,

they come forward, I am not going to pretend otherwise or be so naive

to think that can always happen, but the plain fact of the matter is

when it comes to our votes, we try to figure out what is in the best

interests of this Nation and what is in the best interests of the Armed

Services. The question arises publicly now as to whether or not our

armed forces have to pay first allegiance to political considerations.

Whether one is a Democrat or a Republican, Democrats and Republicans

voted for the resolution that constantly comes up with respect to

whether one supports the war or does not support the war. That is no

longer an issue. The issue is the direction it has taken since the war

commenced, and that is where I feel we have to make a break. This is

what has to be decided November 2. We have to make a fundamental

decision as to whether we are going to let the chaos and the

destruction taking place today continue, the brunt of that chaos and

destruction having to be borne by members of the Armed Services.

That is the issue that I raised with respect to

November 2. Let us face it. No matter who you are in this country, a

vote is going to take place on November 2. That man

has to answer and his boss, the President of the United States, has to

answer for why in Afghanistan today there is no governmental entity at

all other than that which exists under the direct protection of what

amounts to a praetorian guard of the United States in Kabul. The rest

of the country is under the sway of warlords and the Taliban is

resurging, the Taliban is resurging and more opium is being grown, more

dope is being sold, more financing for the Taliban is taking place than

ever before.