Mr. Speaker, this weekend with the news of the adoption of

a new government in Iraq, the silence was deafening. You could hear a

pin drop among the critics of U.S. policy in Iraq.

But there it was. Prime Minister al-Maliki kept his word. He named 39

cabinet ministers, each of whom was approved by more than 90 percent of

the 275-member elected Iraqi Parliament, the first government of Iraq

formed since the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

May God bless Prime Minister al-Maliki and all those brave ministers

in his new government; for despite what you read, despite some of what

you see, freedom is winning in Iraq and this new government's formation

stands for that truth.