Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be

recognized on the floor of this United States Congress and the

opportunity to address the Members.

As I sit here and listen to this discussion that has gone on tonight,

I would kind of like to unravel some of this from the top down and

little bit. And, again, the lamentations come down about all the things

that are going wrong in the world and particularly a list of things

that are allegedly going wrong in Iraq.

My colleagues might notice that my finger is purple today. And it is

purple in celebration and in solidarity with the freedom of the Iraqi

people. The people have gone to the polls three times in this calendar

year, and each time they said it could not be done, and each time they

did an even better job. The January 30 election that elected the

interim government that has now put together the constitution; the

October 15 election that ratified the constitution; and then today's

election that concluded today, December 15 by their calendar, that has

now elected a new general assembly that will select from them a prime

minister. And he will be seated in March, and they will be the most

sovereign, the most representative Arab country in the world. Imagine

that, Madam Speaker, sitting at the United Nations with Iraq having the

most integrity because they represent the real people in their

government.

The argument came from the gentlewoman that there were no weapons of

mass destruction and that was allegedly the only reason that we went

there. When did this country give up on liberation, Madam Speaker? Did

we give up on this when we went to the Philippines after the USS Maine

was sunk in Havana Harbor? We had the Spanish-American War that took

place, and the USS Maine is still at the bottom of the harbor in

Havana. But the Filipino people were liberated by the United States

Marine Corps, and today, the Filipinos are grateful that the Americans

came and liberated them, and we carried over there our way of life, our

free enterprise system, our property rights concept, an educational

system, an English language. And today, they are a prosperous people

because they were liberated by Americans in 1898.

And look at the liberation that took place in the Civil War, Madam

Speaker. There the war was about States' rights. It was about saving

the Union. Abraham Lincoln's efforts were focused on saving the Union.

And then, later on in the war, he signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

No one thought too much of it at the time. Now we remember that as the

war to free the slaves.

So sometimes we have to have a list of reasons why we have to go to

war, Madam Speaker. And this is a war that has freed 25 million Iraqi

people, 25 million Afghanis, has established the lodestars for the Arab

world to follow this democracy that is going to be now a prosperous

Iraq, and that can bring freedom to the entire Arab world, which brings

peace to most of the world as we know it and eliminates the habitat for

terrorists throughout the world.

This is a very, very noble thing that this country has done. It is a

very, very noble sacrifice on the part of the 2,100 and more Americans

who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the Iraqi people,

for the safety of the American people.

It is not a terrorist center there unless you want to say a grave

center for terrorists. They are taking 3,000 terrorists off the street

every month between killed and captured. That is far more than the

casualties that we are taking. Saddam Hussein was killing his own

people at the rate of 182 per day, Madam Speaker. That adds up to over

100,000 Iraqis that are alive today that would not be if Saddam Hussein

were still running his torture chambers, still running his plastic

shredder machine, and with weapons of mass destruction, real gas

weapons of mass destruction, killing his own people. This adds up to a

humanitarian effort that is not unsurpassed in the world but

unsurpassed by other countries aside from the United States of America.

The argument that we are using dollars to purchase propaganda in the

Iraqi newspapers. Good night. How far do you to go to make an argument

against the American people? Maybe we ought to spend these tax dollars

to try to get the real news printed in the New York Times or the

Washington Post, Madam Speaker. If that is what it takes, that is what

we ought to do because part of this war is to defend our troops and our

military. And I am tired of listening on this floor, and I did not hear

it happen tonight, of people that say, ``I support our troops but I

oppose the war.'' That means they oppose their mission, and they are

asking soldiers to put their lives on the line for a mission that they

do not believe in.