Thank you, my friend. I hope that you had a pleasant

break. I know you were working, but I hope that you enjoyed your stay

at home.

Professor Allison's observations really echo the conclusion that was

reached by a bipartisan group of experts, including many from the

administration of President Reagan, and that conclusion was that the

United States is losing the war on terror.

We read that our friends on the other side of the aisle have made a

political decision to talk about national security, to talk about

terror and what they have accomplished. Well, the truth is, nothing has

been accomplished, except the loss of thousands of American lives with

a financial cost going on some half a trillion dollars.

You know, one only has to watch the nightly news. I was in the

cloakroom earlier and watched the national news. It was depressing, it

was sad, it was tragic. What is going on in Baghdad today and all over

Iraq is an orgy of violence and blood-letting.

We hear these distinctions between sectarian strife, between

insurgents versus the terrorists. I still can't quite figure them out.

All I know is that lives are being lost, that we Americans are taking

this burden on by ourselves.

And don't talk to me about the coalition. It is an American burden

almost exclusively.

Let me just read to you this report from The Washington Post. And,

again, this is a survey taken of some 116 experts. In the relationship

between Iraq and the war on terror, I think it is all too sad that many

of our friends and colleagues on the other side, but particularly in

the administration, have an alternate reality. We have made these

arguments before, that the invasion of Iraq had nothing to do with the

war on terror. There was, with one exception, unanimous support to

invade Afghanistan to deal a blow to the Taliban, which were allowing

al Qaeda safe haven and the ability to train and to grow.

What we have done with this policy is we have created more terrorists

than existed in 2001. There has been an explosion, not just of

violence; there has been an explosion of terrorists. We have made Iraq

into a breeding ground for terrorists. They are leaving Iraq, and they

are going back to Afghanistan, as you pointed out, Mr. Larson. There is

a resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and things are beginning to

unravel again.

I yield to my friend.

And you know where we didn't do that, John?

We didn't do that in Afghanistan.

We cut and ran from Afghanistan. We were distracted by

this vision, this neoconservative vision of invading Iraq and bringing

stability and democracy to the Middle East. And yet now, now we are

paying the price in Afghanistan.

I yield back to my friend.

I know we have been joined by several of our

colleagues, Congresswoman Waters and Congressman Van Hollen, and of

course I see Mr. McDermott over there also. And I know Mr. Van Hollen

has expended a considerable amount of time and effort in becoming

conversant, an expert, if you will, with what is occurring in

Afghanistan. But before I yield to either him or to Maxine Waters, let

us just take a look at USA Today.

This is dated June 20 of 2006, more than 4 years after we invaded

Afghanistan. The headline reads: ``Revived Taliban Waging Full-Blown

Insurgency.'' I know that all of us who are interested in this

particular issue can tell you that what is happening in Afghanistan

today is very dangerous for stability, for the very fragile, extremely

fragile democracy; that Afghanistan has become a narco-state that is

providing 90 percent of the world's heroin. What have we wrought with

this policy?

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield for a moment,

I would like to just quote another statement by Michael Scheuer that I

really think tells it all in a very concise way. All of us should

listen because this was an individual who participated in that group of

experts, by the way, again bipartisan, many well-known Republican

foreign policy experts who served in the Reagan administration, and

this is what Michael Scheuer had to say, the man who headed the unit in

the CIA to track down Osama bin Laden. His comments were really about

Iraq and its relationship to Afghanistan and what has happened as a

result of the Bush policy, supported by the majority in this Congress,

to the war on terror.

We are clearly losing today, Mr. Scheuer said. Today, bin Laden, al

Qaeda and their allies have only one indispensable ally, the United

States foreign policy towards the Islamic world.

If I may, before you yield to Jim McDermott, I think it

is important to follow what Congressman Van Hollen just talked about in

terms of the diversion of resources.

Several weeks ago, the foreign minister of Afghanistan came to this

country and made a statement, and it was reported in the Washington

Times, that the government forces, the security forces, the army and

the police, are being outgunned and outmanned by the terrorists in

Afghanistan.

In response the administration said, Well, we will double the

assistance to the security forces. This is more than about 5 years, I

daresay, since we invaded Afghanistan. This just simply goes to the

point that in Iraq, with Katrina, with Afghanistan, with just about

everything, we have seen a level of incompetence and mismanagement that

is simply mind-boggling.

Last week, they are talking about increasing military assistance to

the security forces in Afghanistan. In the meantime, it is going very

badly in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I know we all remember when President Bush

made that surprise visit to Baghdad to meet with the Iraqi leaders. And

on the way back, he was on Air Force One, and he brought some reporters

in. He had this to say about his conversations with the Iraqi leaders:

There are concerns about our commitment in keeping our troops there.

They are worried, almost to a person, that we will leave them before

they are capable of defending themselves. And I assured them they did

not need to worry.

But I guess when he is referring to just, I think his words were,

``almost to a person,'' he did not mention that the Vice President of

Iraq came to him and said, please, Mr. President, would you provide a

time line for the withdrawal of American troops, the clear inference

being, until you leave, we are not going to be able to resolve the

issues because you are fueling this violence by your presence.

What was interesting was that the President of Iraq, the Kurdish

leader Talabani, corroborated this request by his Vice President and

said that he supported it. They want us out.

Those that want Americans soldiers there, I would suggest to you,

have a motive that is dark, because they realize that with the presence

of American troops, they have an excuse, they have an excuse to commit

violence. They have a rationale to inflame passion. And what is the

result? We have seen it over the course of this weekend and today with

hundreds being executed, murdered, in a situation that is clearly a

civil war.

We hear terms like low-grade civil war. I guess that is something

like being a little bit pregnant. I mean, it is just simply----

50,000 civilians who have died.

So my point is, to go back to where we began, all of us want to win

against

terrorism, which we can agree is scourged. However, the rest of the

world--there was another poll that was taken; 34 out of 35 countries,

this was commissioned by the BBC, and this poll found that in 34 out of

35 of those countries more people believed, 60 percent believed that

the war in Iraq increased terrorism, and 15 percent disagreed and said

it impacted terrorism and led to a decline. Sixteen percent to 15

percent, and yet this administration, this Republican leadership, is

tone deaf to that.

I am convinced we all, everyone in this Chamber, everyone in this

government wants to defeat terrorism. It is just they do not know how

to do it.