Thank you, Mr. Larson. I think that people may wonder

why some of us come out here and talk about this week after week. It

really has to do with the feeling of having seen this story once

before.

And when you know what it is to commit people to battle. I had to

say, this person is fit for active duty and goes to war in Vietnam. I

had to do that again and again and again. So I know what the weight is

of doing that.

When you ask, why are the generals coming out and talking about what

is going on in this whole thing? Why do people who have been loyal to

this country and have served for long, distinguished careers, now stand

up and say about the management of this war, as General Newbold did on

April 9th of this year, he said, My sincere view is that the commitment

of our forces to this fight was done with the casualness and the

swagger that are the special privilege of those who have never had to

execute these missions or bury the results.

And it is incredible that we stand out here today, 120 days from

election, being subjected to a propaganda war that things are getting

better. In spite of bombings and people dying and our soldiers

continuing to be killed, the administration says, We have to stay the

course.

Now, if you look around the world, you would think maybe, well, maybe

it is just some antiwar Americans. Right? No. In yesterday's Guardian,

or the July 5 Guardian, there was an article my Menzies Campbell. He is

the leader of the Liberal Democrats in the British House of Commons.

And he said, the British and American Governments have tried to pretend

things are getting better in Iraq. They are wrong. The facts belie

their optimism. Between 2004 and 2005, the number of car and roadside

bombs doubled and the suicide bombs trebled. Electricity supplies and

oil production are still below prewar levels. Iraq stands on the

threshold of a civil war.

Now, here is a leader in Britain saying exactly what we are saying.

They have got troops on the ground. They are committed in support. But,

in fact, they are becoming very antsy. Mr. Campbell comes up with a

six-point plan to get out of Iraq. It is things that we have talked

about right here in this room.

He talks about a comprehensive U.N.-led disarmament, demobilization

and reintegration strategy as necessary to make a reality of the Iraqi

prime minister's policies that the militias must merge with the

national security forces.

We all know this cannot be a government that has militias running it.

It becomes warlords. It becomes like Afghanistan. It is the same thing.

He also says there needs to be an end to the systematic, indefinite

detentions by U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Today, there are 30,000 Iraqis held in more or less permanent

detention, whether it be in Guantanamo or Abu Ghraib or wherever. And

as long as we continue to do that, we are occupiers. There is no

question about it. And the plan which Mr. Menzies Campbell puts

forward, or the one that we put forward, there are reasonable ways to

get out of this. But we must get out of Iraq if we are ever going to

deal with the problems you talk about in Afghanistan.

We cannot fight on two fronts. We have proven that. We left

Afghanistan to go to Iraq, and the mess came right back up. And if we

are serious about dealing with whatever kind of terrorism was being

created in Afghanistan, we have got to go back and finish that job.

Now, Menzies Campbell finishes by saying, you could change the words

a little bit, but it would be the very same thing. With distressing

regularity, the Commons, or the Congress, pays tribute to the brave men

and women who have given their lives in Iraq.

If the government cannot explain why this is necessary, that they

should make this ultimate sacrifice, then it must be prepared to bring

them home. And that is where we are today. We have a government that

wants to get through 120 days, and I will make a prediction for you.

Right there, the prime minister of Iraq, Mr. Maliki, is going to come

in here in the next month, and he is going to stand up there and plead

with us to leave our troops in Iraq.

We have seen that kind of stuff already in this House. And you can

bet that the PR from that will be to stimulate people to say, oh, gee,

if we stayed just another 3 months or another 4 months or whatever. We

have been there since 2002, 4 years, and this is what you have as the

analysis by people who know what they are talking about.

To the 40,000 people who died there.