Mr. Speaker, I have some remarks that I am going to share

with our colleagues on the 21st century economy and some of the

challenges that we are going to face, but I would like to preface my

remarks by responding to some of the issues that have been raised by my

colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Blumenauer), my colleague,

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Watson), and the gentleman from

Georgia (Mr. Lewis), who spoke just before me.

There is in fact righteous indignation, as the gentleman from Georgia

(Mr. Lewis) just said, over what we as a Nation have seen take place in

the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

We as a Nation and as a people are outraged over this treatment of

prisoners. It appears to be in clear violation of the Geneva

Convention, and I believe that we have a responsibility to do

everything that we can as a body to clearly state the outrage that we

have.

As I said in response to the remarks being made by my colleague, the

gentlewoman from California (Ms. Watson), Mr. Speaker, we are working

at this moment on a resolution that I hope very much can enjoy

bipartisan support that will allow every single Member of this House to

go on record expressing what the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Lewis)

correctly describes as righteous indignation over what we have

observed.

Now, the closing remarks that were just offered by the gentleman from

Georgia (Mr. Lewis) had to do with the call for our withdrawal from

Iraq; and

I would take just a moment to respond to that, Mr. Speaker, by saying

that it is very apparent that some seem to have forgotten what led to

where we are today.

It was September 11, 2001, when our world changed. Following

September 11, President Bush immediately moved in on al Qaeda and the

Taliban and Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. We also know that the

global war on terrorism extended beyond Afghanistan. We know that in

Iraq, Saddam Hussein had been a supporter of terrorist activities,

clearly in his region; and we know that he had utilized weapons of mass

destruction against his own people.

There is a reason that we are in Iraq today, Mr. Speaker; and it has

to do clearly with our quest to do what only, only the United States of

America is capable to do, and that is to stand up for freedom, liberty,

human rights and independence as we struggle with this global war on

terror. That is why I want to congratulate President Bush for the

strong, unwavering, decisive leadership that he has shown in this

global war on terror.