Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. What I

find interesting is ever since, well ever since before the invasion the

administration has not been forthcoming, has not played it straight

with us and with the American people.

And I just got in from Boston, my plane was late, I am sure that many

of you encountered those kinds of difficulties. But I had an

opportunity to listen to my friend, Mr. Inslee from Washington. And he

talked about the Iraqi people not wanting us to stay, if you can accept

the results of that poll, which presumably are valid.

And you make a point about the prime minister talking about a

timetable. And yet during the course of, I do not want to call it a

debate, but during the course of the speeches that were given here last

week regarding Iraq, we heard a term like ``cut and run,'' you know,

cut and run.

Well, I find what is interesting is that now there is some cutting,

or there appears to be some cutting. But you know what was unsaid

during the entire conversation that was held on this floor? It is not

just the Iraqi people that want us to leave, or at least to provide a

timetable, but maybe President Bush was not hearing what the prime

minister and the vice president and the president of Iraq had to say

when he made his visit there a week or 10 days ago.

Because flying back on Air Force One with the media, this is what he

had to say, ``There are concerns about our commitment and keeping our

troops there. They are worried, almost to a person, that we will leave

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

they did not need to worry.''

But I guess when he says ``almost to a person,'' he is not referring

to the vice president and the president of Iraq. Because it was

reported in the Associated Press last week that the Iraqi vice

president had asked President Bush for a timeline for withdrawal of

foreign troops from Iraq.

And that was confirmed by President Talabani, and in addition,

President Talabani agreed with that request. So it was not just

Democrats and others that were interested in a timeline for when we are

getting out of there, but it was the Iraqi president and the Iraqi vice

president.

And yet we hear terms like cut and run. Cut and run. The only thing

we are cutting here are taxes for the super-rich and running up a

deficit. That is what we are cutting and running here in this

institution. Everyone recognizes there is a responsibility, but we did

not get into this mess. Should we trust this administration?

We were told by the Vice President that we were going to be greeted

as liberators. False. The Secretary of Defense said the war would not

last more than 6 months. False. His deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, said that

Iraq could pay for its own reconstruction from oil revenues. False.

We heard from the Vice President and everyone else that there were

links between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. False. False. False. And now

we are told that, well, we cannot put out a timeline or a timetable to

withdraw.

The Iraqi people want it. I dare say the American people need to know

about it. It is in the best interests of our national security, because

what we are doing there is we are creating terrorists. We are eroding

the efforts against terrorism worldwide the longer we stay there. We

are viewed by the world as occupiers. All you have to do is take a look

at the recent polling data, the most recent one being from a very

reputable foundation, the Pew Foundation, 33 out of 35 countries have a

negative image of the United States. Our own Government Accountability

Office that my friends on both sides of the aisle know is a nonpartisan

agency of the U.S. Congress has said this: anti-American sentiment is

broadening and deepening and is a threat to our national security and

will hurt our efforts against terrorism.

And, of course, there is a possibility and a real potential that it

will hurt us in other areas, and furthermore it could very well erode

and hurt our commercial interests.

And the American taxpayer.

Well, I would conclude by asking a question, which is

that, ultimately, what has occurred because of our invasion of Iraq?

Let us project 2 years, 5 years, 10 years.

We hear so much talk about bringing democracy to the Middle East.

Well, you know what I see, I see an emerging relationship between Iraq

and Iran. I already have noted that there is a bilateral military

cooperation agreement between Iran and Iraq. In my memory, please help

me, wasn't Iran one of the original members of the access of evil club?

And just recently, I noticed where the prime minister suggested that

the international community ought to leave Iran alone and drop its

demand, drop its demand that Iran prove that it is not developing

nuclear technology for purposes of a weapon.

Now, what is happening here? Are we going to end up with the legacy

of this loss of American lives and American taxpayer dollars with a

more influential Iran? I mean, please, has anybody even talked about

this or considered it? Do we hear this as part of the debate and the

discourse even among think tanks, even among the popular media outlets?