Mr. Speaker, in this week's Conservative Chronicle,

William F. Buckley has a column entitled ``Day has come to Exit Iraq.''

He refers to the U.S. casualty figures, now over 1,600 dead and

11,000 wounded, and we continue to lose about 50 dead a month, and

says,

Mr. Buckley writes,

Of course, several months ago, Mr. Buckley said that if he known in

2002 what he knows now, he never would have supported the war in Iraq

in the first place.

These words are from William F. Buckley, a man author Lee Edwards

described as the ``godfather'' of the conservative movement.

There never was anything conservative about the war in Iraq. I said

from the start that it would mean massive foreign aid, huge deficit

spending, and that it was not far to place almost all the entire burden

of enforcing U.N. resolutions on our taxpayers and our military.

Conservatives have traditionally been the biggest critics of the U.N.,

and the worst part of all, of course, is all the deaths.

All to bring do not an evil man, but one whose military budget was 2/

10ths of 1 percent of ours and who was no threat to us whatsoever.

Two months before the House voted to authorize the war in Iraq, our

then-Majority leader, Dick Armey, said,

Mr. Armey understood there was nothing conservative about the war in

Iraq.

I voted in 1998 to give $100 million to the Iraqi opposition to help

them remove Hussein. We should have let the Iraqis remove Hussein

instead of sending our troops to fight and die there. Iraq had not

attacked us or even threatened to attack us, and they were not even

able to attack us.

By the end of this year, we will have spent $300 billion in Iraq and

Afghanistan, with probably 85 to 90 percent of that being in Iraq.

But are we following the latest advice by William F. Buckley in

getting out? No. Unfortunately, we are doing just the opposite.

Paul Wolfowitz, the father of this war, told the House Committee on

Armed Services several months ago that we would have to be in Iraq for

at least 10 years.

Last week, a Congressional Quarterly headline said, ``with ink just

dry on War Supplemental, more spending expected before August.''

The Congress has just approved $82 billion more and now we are told

we will be asked for even more as early as this coming August.

Instead of getting out, as William Buckley has recommended, Congress

Daily reported last week that a Congressional Research Service study

``portends a more permanent presence'' in Iraq and the Middle East.

The report noted approval of $2.2 billion for additional military

construction in the Middle East, supporting activities in Iraq,

including $75 million for an airfield in Kuwait, $66 million for an air

base in the United Arab Emirates, and $43 million for a new runway in

Uzbekistan.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when we are closing down bases in the U.S.,

we are building like crazy all over the world, especially in Iraq and

the Middle East.

I am pro-military and pro-national defense, but I do not believe we

can shoulder the defense of the entire world.

Our Founding Fathers would be shocked at what we are doing, and most

of what we have done in Iraq is pure foreign aid, rebuilding roads,

several thousand schools, power plants, bridges, water systems, free

medical care and on and on and on. I believe in having a strong

Department of Defense, but I do not believe it should be a department

of foreign aid.

Syndicated columnist Georgie Ann Geyer wrote,

Seventeen American soldiers were killed in Iraq over the last two

weekends and a few others during the week.

Some have said if we pull out a civil war would erupt there. Well,

what do my colleagues think we have there now?

We should at least stop the killing of American kids, heed the advice

of William F. Buckley, Junior, and begin a phased and orderly

withdrawal.

We cannot afford to stay there for years either in terms of lives or

money.