Mr. Speaker, American families continue to struggle in the

face of this recession and yet in 1 day the Bush administration spends

$339 million on the war in Iraq.

As General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker appear before Congress

this week to defend this occupation, congressional Democrats have many

questions about the costs of this occupation. This country has spent

more than $500 billion in Iraq. It could go up to 3 to $4 trillion. Yet

47 million Americans have no health insurance.

Last month, then GAO Comptroller David Walker stated the Iraqis have

a budget surplus. We have a huge budget deficit.

One of the questions is who should be paying? That's a really good

question, considering that we are currently pumping billions of dollars

into this war, which is stimulating economies in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi

Arabia while the American economy is in recession. What about investing

money here instead of in education, health care and infrastructure to

create jobs?

This occupation has placed a massive human and financial cost on the

United States, and yet President Bush demands more of the same. We must

end this occupation and bring our troops home.