Mr. Speaker, Members of the House,

next week the administration is poised to give us and the American

people a rosy assessment of the situation in Iraq. They are going to

suggest that in fact there has been no escalation in Iraq, and that

everything is just fine. Well, everything isn't just fine, and there is

in fact an escalation going on in the violence all over Iraq. What the

President's policy is a bait-and-switch policy.

The American troops were sent to Iraq to fight al Qaeda, to fight

terrorists. Now we see American troops inserted into combat, coming

under fire, dying, and being wounded for the sake of one Shia political

party that is afraid that it might lose an election in October. What

are the American troops doing fighting for the electoral advantage of

one Shia party over another?

Recently, the Pentagon suggested that this was all a sign of success

of the surge. I think we should watch those words closely; you may miss

something. This administration earlier told the people that the troop

surge was for the purposes of decreasing the violence and creating an

environment of political reconciliation. The people who were supposed

to create political reconciliation are now shooting at one another

because they think they might lose an election in October, and they

want us to sacrifice American lives to impose the majority that they

hope to have in that election.