Mr. Speaker, in the glow after the election, I come to

the floor really to caution this House with the words of an old

colleague of mine who says it is always too soon to congratulate

yourself.

The New York Times on the 11th of December carried an editorial which

is entitled Present at the Disintegration.

What he says, and he is an Iraqi, is that the government that has

been established by the constitution and has now been elected is

fatally flawed in three ways, and what we are going to get is continued

civil war in that country because it is not possible to resolve the

problems, given the people who have been elected.

The first is, we have created a parliament that can override the

executive. We, secondly, created an executive that is divided between a

president and a council of ministers, so there will be constant tension

between the two factions that will control the government, the Shia and

the Kurds. The Sunnis, everybody knows, are not going to be one of the

controlling parties.

Finally, it encourages local governments to break off and become

sovereign. What we are watching is the disintegration of Iraq.