Madam Speaker, in case anyone was still under the

impression that the President was serious about changing the dynamics

on the ground in Iraq, they should put all those hopes aside. If the

administration gets its way, this President will leave 8,000 more

troops in Iraq when he leaves office than were there before the surge

last year.

In 2006, before the President's troop escalation plan, there were

132,000 American troops in Iraq. This summer after five combat brigades

come home, there still will be 140,000 troops on the ground.

There is not going to be a change. Last year the President moved

ahead with this troop escalation plan, promising that it would give the

Iraq Government the stability to make some of the tough political

decisions. As the troop escalation comes to an end, the Iraq Government

has failed to bring about any real political progress, and repeated

deployments are severely straining our military readiness.

Madam Speaker, the status quo is not working. We will continue to

fight to end this war and head our country in a new direction.