Thank you. I am almost done for this part, and I would

encourage the gentleman to stand up so we could have a little bit of a

dialogue about this.

But when I read what he read in the resolution, declares that it is

not in the national security interest of the United States to set an

arbitrary date for the withdrawal or redeployment of United States

Armed Forces from Iraq, I think it is a very clear statement. If people

think it is in the national interest to have an arbitrary date, they

can vote ``no'' against this resolution and hold their head up high. If

like you, Mr. Gohmert, and I feel that it would be an absolute huge

mistake, and, in fact, I am not aware of any war that has been won by

setting arbitrary dates, then we would want this statement to stand and

we would support it. This declares that the United States is committed

to the completion of the mission to create a sovereign, free, secure,

and united Iraq. I believe the war in Iraq is a noble effort. I believe

this describes exactly how I feel. If there are those who feel that we

should not complete the mission to create a sovereign, free, and secure

and united Iraq, they have the ability with their heads held high to

vote against it.

I appreciate the opportunity we have had to debate these two very

important points.

If the gentleman will allow me to comment, I think the

gentleman makes a very good point. I love to just think of the

Revolutionary War and, being somewhat a student of history and loving

history, thinking of when my professors would tell me that one-third of

the American people supported the war against Great Britain, one-third

opposed it, and one-third didn't care or didn't even know there was a

war. But we were pretty divided. In fact, the war during that time we

had families absolutely divided. And Benjamin Franklin's son was the

governor of a State, did not want to give up that authority given to

him by the crown, and opposed the war. Even among their own family,

there was division.

But what I think about that Revolutionary War that just blows me away

is George Washington had one failure after another after another. In

fact, they said if the wind had been blowing the other way, he would

have been captured in Manhattan. Thank goodness there was not the press

that said we have made all these terrible mistakes, we need to leave.

And it gets me to this point. We have made mistakes, but they do not

justify leaving. What is justified is to stop making those mistakes and

doing it the right way.

And if the gentleman would just indulge me a little longer, I am well

aware that Abraham Lincoln was constantly criticized because his

generals were not winning. In fact, his generals started criticizing

him. In fact, a general ran against him in his reelection because they

thought he was not fighting the war properly. So thank goodness we did

not set an arbitrary date on either George Washington or Abraham

Lincoln. Thank goodness we did not say because you have made mistakes,

we have got to just stop.

What is important in your dialogue is the terrorists. And

there was this argument: Well, the terrorists are not in Iraq. I am not

going to argue whether they were there before we went in, but no one

can argue that they are not there now. In fact, the prince of the

terrorists, al Zarqawi, was killed. He was killed operating and doing

his handiwork in Iraq.

I do not know, if that is the kind dialogue that has been

happened in Texas. Most of my folks have recognized that we got him and

it was due to good intelligence. But if I could, you are talking about

this administration. Let me just talk briefly about what a former

administration said, in other words, what Bill Clinton said, according

to John A. Torres from the Florida Today on June 13 in a meeting he had

on the 12th.

So he is arguing that without a presence it would be worse

Too long it would

backfire, but he is very clear: We cannot leave until we stabilize

Iraq.

This is al Qaeda that is saying that; correct?