For both employers and workers in the auto industry, it is vitally important that the publicly funded health care system be preserved and renewed, on the existing principles of universality, accessibility, portability, comprehensiveness, and public administration. The system needs a secure multi-year funding base from government, and must be expanded to cover an updated range of services (including prescription drugs and home care services) that reflects both the evolving nature of medical science and the emerging needs of our population.

To this end, Ford Motor Company and CAW-Canada jointly urge the federal and provincial governments to take appropriate actions to preserve the public health care system, secure its funding base, and modernize the range of services which it covers. In addition to reinforcing the quality and accessibility of health care for Canadians, these measures would also help to ensure the long-run success of Canada's auto industry.

ALAIN BATTY,
President and Chief Executive Officer, Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited.
BASIL ''BUZZ'' HARGROVE,
National President, CAW-Canada.

A FREE IRAQ

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be recognized on the floor of this United States Congress and the opportunity to address the Members.

As I sit here and listen to this discussion that has gone on tonight, I would kind of like to unravel some of this from the top down and little bit. And, again, the lamentations come down about all the things that are going wrong in the world and particularly a list of things that are allegedly going wrong in Iraq.

My colleagues might notice that my finger is purple today. And it is purple in celebration and in solidarity with the freedom of the Iraqi people. The people have gone to the polls three times in this calendar year, and each time they said it could not be done, and each time they did an even better job. The January 30 election that elected the interim government that has now put together the constitution; the October 15 election that ratified the constitution; and then today's election that concluded today, December 15 by their calendar, that has now elected a new general assembly that will select from them a prime minister. And he will be seated in March, and they will be the most sovereign, the most representative Arab country in the world. Imagine that, Madam Speaker, sitting at the United Nations with Iraq having the most integrity because they represent the real people in their government.

The argument came from the gentlewoman that there were no weapons of mass destruction and that was allegedly the only reason that we went there. When did this country give up on liberation, Madam Speaker? Did we give up on this when we went to the Philippines after the USS *Maine* was sunk in Havana Harbor? We had the Spanish-American War that took place, and the USS *Maine* is still at the bottom of the harbor in Havana. But the Filipino people were liberated by the United States Marine Corps, and today, the Filipinos are grateful that the Americans came and liberated them, and we carried over there our way of life, our free enterprise system, our property rights concept, an educational system, an English language. And today, they are a prosperous people because they were liberated by Americans in 1898.

And look at the liberation that took place in the Civil War, Madam Speaker. There the war was about States' rights. It was about saving the Union. Abraham Lincoln's efforts were focused on saving the Union. And then, later on in the war, he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. No one thought too much of it at the time. Now we remember that as the war to free the slaves.

So sometimes we have to have a list of reasons why we have to go to war, Madam Speaker. And this is a war that has freed 25 million Iraqi people, 25 million Afghanis, has established the lodestars for the Arab world to follow this democracy that is going to be now a prosperous Iraq, and that can bring freedom to the entire Arab world, which brings peace to most of the world as we know it and eliminates the habitat for terrorists throughout the world.

This is a very, very noble thing that this country has done. It is a very, very noble sacrifice on the part of the 2,100 and more Americans who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the Iraqi people, for the safety of the American people.

It is not a terrorist center there unless you want to say a grave center for terrorists. They are taking 3,000 terrorists off the street every month between killed and captured. That is far more than the casualties that we are taking. Saddam Hussein was killing his own people at the rate of 182 per day, Madam Speaker. That adds up to over 100,000 Iraqis that are alive today that would not be if Saddam Hussein were still running his torture chambers, still running his plastic shredder machine, and with weapons of mass destruction, real gas weapons of mass destruction, killing his own people. This adds up to a humanitarian effort that is not unsurpassed in the world but unsurpassed by other countries aside from the United States of America.

The argument that we are using dollars to purchase propaganda in the Iraqi newspapers. Good night. How far do you to go to make an argument against the American people? Maybe we ought to spend these tax dollars to try to get the real news printed in the New York Times or the Washington Post, Madam Speaker. If that is what it takes, that is what we ought to do because part of this war is to defend our troops and our military. And I am tired of listening on this floor, and I did not hear it happen tonight, of people that say, ''I support our troops but I oppose the war.'' That means they oppose their mission, and they are asking soldiers to put their lives on the line for a mission that they do not believe in.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FOREIGN-HELD DEBT

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, there are some things that Congress and the President can really do something about. And one of those is the management of our Federal accounts.

The news today reports in USA Today, Oil imports help push the trade gap to record highs. Every time I see the fact that we are importing more oil than finding ways to become more energy independent here at home, I say to myself, there is something that America really can do but is not doing.

The New York Times reported, and I include this in the RECORD, today that the U.S. trade deficit indeed has hit record highs, threatening U.S. growth. We are going deeper and deeper into debt every day with imports climbing much faster than exports. The American people know this. One can hardly find anything made in this country anymore. In fact, the trade deficit is so huge, it is now three-quarters of $1 trillion and rising and, with it, our foreign indebtedness. This widening gap is likely to reduce our overall growth as a country.

Now, our thirst for imported petroleum as a part of this increase rose 13 percent. And the Secretary of Treasury is living in another world when he says the reason that we are going into hock is because other nations are not growing fast enough, when, in fact, other nations are the very countries that are lending us money to make up this gap.

The New York Times says a growing number of economists worry that the United States has become locked into