Mr. Speaker, I

know it is an election year, and I know

President Bush’s ratings are at an alltime

low, and I know gas prices are

very high and the people are restless.

Nevertheless, I call upon my colleagues

and the President to resist the temptation

to start yet another war.

There is an old saying: ‘‘Fool me

once, shame on you. Fool me twice,

shame on me.’’ Well, friends, if we fall

for the case being made to go to war

against Iran, it will be ‘‘shame on us.’’

And I define bombing from 40,000 feet

as war.

Just as we did in the months leading

up to the invasion of Iraq, a country

which had no connection to 9/11 and no

weapons of mass destruction, this administration

intentionally confused us

with regard to Iraq. It is doing the

same with Iran. The administration

says they want compliance with nuclear

treaties but makes it clear that

they really will settle for nothing less

than regime change.

When I said before the Iraq war that

I believed the President would be willing

to mislead us into the war if he believed

misleading us was necessary to

fulfill his plans, I was excoriated, but I

was right. I do not characterize the

President’s motives. I assume he took

us into war in Iraq because he sincerely

believed it was the right thing to do.

We know now that he was wrong about

that. The world is less safe. The Iraqis

are in turmoil. More Americans have

died in the President’s plan in Iraq

than died in New York City and at the

Pentagon.

What the President did with our Iraq

policy is being replicated with our Iran

policy. There was much to criticize

about Saddam Hussein, and there is

much to criticize about the ayatollahs

and their front men in Iran. We have

every right to demand that Iran adhere

to its obligations under the Nuclear

Nonproliferation Treaty and to pursue

sanctions and other penalties. What we

do not have the right to do is to make

it impossible for Iran to satisfy our demands

without regime change.

When we started demanding regime

change in Iraq instead of demanding

compliance with U.N. inspectors, we

put ourselves on the path to war in

Iraq. We are on the same plan and the

same path in Iran. We will not talk

with the Iranian government, and we

will not stop talking about overthrowing

it. It is impossible for the Iranian

government to satisfy this administration

and remain a government, although

this administration will immediately

deny that.

Every time it appears something is

going to work out with the Soviet

Union, or whatever, we pull the rug out

from the negotiators. Because we don’t

want negotiation. We don’t want to

solve the problem. We want regime

change. Somehow this administration

has got it in its head that it has the

right to tell other governments to step

aside for people we like better. That is

wrong.

We tried it with Mosaddegh and put

in the Shah and we are back at it

again. What we should do instead is to

call their bluff and let them save face

at the same time. If they say they want

nuclear energy, we should say, okay, if

it is nuclear energy you want, you

won’t mind having wall-to-wall U.N.

inspectors watching every move you

make to keep people from getting the

wrong idea.

We make sure that they can’t build

bombs and let them have what they are

entitled to under the NPT: civilian energy.

We must quit making the leaders

more popular. And we are doing it by

making them the guys who stand up to

the U.S. We must quit acting like we

are going to invade any country that

has the wrong regime.

If we attack Iran, as I fear we are on

a course to do, we will unleash a hell

unlike anything this region has seen.

Iran is not Iraq. It has not been under

sanctions for 10 years. It has not been

bombed flat by the Gulf War. It is a

strong nation with weapons. We will

make ourselves once again less safe if

we attack them.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has

now been told on this floor, in public,

on the record. The President will come

here in about 6 or 8 or 9 months and

give us a State of the Union. If he has

taken us into a war in Iran, he will deserve

what happens.

This country does not need another

war. We have already proven the failure

of that in Iraq; and because they

won’t change their mind, they keep

doing the same thing over and over

again. And now there is an election

coming up. The 2006 election is coming

and they want to distract us. That is

why they are leading us towards Iran.