Mr. Speaker, for

years the administration has been rigging

its case for war against Iran with

posturing, finger-wagging and name

calling. Those are not my words. One of

my hometown daily newspapers, the

Seattle Post Intelligencer, authored

those words as the first sentence of an

editorial they published this morning

entitled: ‘‘Iran: No, not again.’’ I will

insert the Seattle PI editorial into the

RECORD at this point.

The fact is, the mainstream newspapers

at home and around the world

are expressing grave concerns over

what they fear may be the sequel to

Iraq, namely, a military strike against

Iran.

One of the sources used by the PI editorial

is the Guardian newspaper of the

United Kingdom which published a

story yesterday with this headline:

‘‘Cheney Pushes Bush to Act on Iran.’’

The Guardian reports that: ‘‘The balance

in the internal White House debate

over Iran has shifted back in favor

of military action before President

George Bush leaves office in 18

months.’’

Ominously, the story adds: ‘‘Although

the Bush administration is in

deep trouble over Iraq, it remains focused

on Iran. A well-placed source in

Washington said, ‘Bush is not going to

leave office with Iran still in limbo.’ ’’

Thoughtful newspapers and other

worldwide people believe the Vice

President is pushing for a military

strike against Iran. The Vice President’s

presence and speech aboard an

aircraft carrier near Iran in mid-May

sent an unmistakable message, says

the New York Times.

As the Guardian reports, The Vice

President is winning the war for war

inside the administration, and now the

American people have to be brought

along. That means the administration

and its surrogates will make the data

say what they need it to say.

We’re already beginning to see how a

new national intelligence assessment

released just today will be manipulated.

The report makes a persuasive

and fact-driven case for getting our soldiers

out of Iraq, because the President

shifted away from the real war against

terrorism to pursue his own agenda in

Iraq.

But instead of a sober assessment of

what’s gone wrong in Iraq, we’re hearing

that terrorists have reconstituted

their operations inside Iran. And the

insinuation for military action is clear.

Like many, I would like to know

what’s really going on in Iran and what

Iranian leaders are thinking and doing.

Well, where can we turn for an assessment

we can trust? We know the Vice

President wants to use deadly force in

Iran. We know that there are credible

media reports that say the Vice President

is winning the war to go to war

with Iran. So how are we going to get

accurate and reliable information from

this administration or anyone associated

with it?

Today, the State Department announced

it wants a new meeting directly

with Iran to talk face-to-face,

government-to-government. Ordinarily,

I would see this as a welcome,

even positive, sign that the administration

has finally begun to see the wisdom

in diplomacy.

Is that the case, or is an announcement

that comes on the same day as

the New Intelligence Estimate a sign

that the Vice President is about to declare

mission accomplished? We don’t

know the answer, and we don’t know

what happened in Iraq.

But we do know what happened in

Iraq. The PI editorial board reminds us

how the administration ran over the

International Atomic Energy Agency,

its chief, to make a war in Iraq,

quoting the PI. Look where we are

now, more than 3,000 American troops

and tens of thousands of Iraqis dead in

a war that defies reason and sees no

end. We fear the same may happen in

Iran. So do I.

Tell the President not to go after

Iran.