Mr. Speaker, this Saturday the President will issue an

interim report on the Iraqi government's success or failure meeting the

benchmarks. But prior to taking a look at that report, we have another

set of benchmarks to look at; that is, the benchmarks for President

Bush's administration and what they've done on the Iraqi policy.

When the war began, The White House said that Americans would be

greeted as liberators. That's not happening.

Next we were told oil revenues would finance the reconstruction of

the Iraqi society. Not happening.

Then we were told that the insurgency was in its last throes. Not

happening.

Then we were told that we were planting a democracy in the heart of

the Mideast. Not happening.

At every turn, the administration's benchmarks for the Iraqi strategy

have failed to meet their own measure of success. And the American

people have been asked to pay for this failure.

Two years ago, we were spending $5 billion a month in Iraq. It is now

reported that we're up to $10 billion a month in resources, not

counting the amount of lives we lose on a monthly basis.

Mr. Speaker, we've waited long enough. The President's strategy of

more troops, more time, more money and more of the same has run its

course. It's time for a new direction.