Mr. Speaker, Members of the House,

finally, but 4 years too late, the Bush administration, with Vice

President Cheney's trip to Afghanistan, has recognized that the real

war on terror is not Iraq; that Iraq has been a diversion against that

war on terror; that, in fact, the real war on terror is in Pakistan and

Afghanistan and in the border area. They are starting to discover that

the Government of Pakistan has not been our friend as we have tried to

stabilize Afghanistan and the Karzai government, as we have tried to

build democracy in Afghanistan, as we have tried to root out the

Taliban and al Qaeda; that, in fact, because of the diversion and our

early leaving of Afghanistan for Iraq, that we have now allowed the al

Qaeda to come back in command and control and to build their

membership, to recruit around the world.

We have seen the Taliban come back into Afghanistan and start to

threaten and overturn village leaders and democratically elected

leaders in villages in various parts of Afghanistan. Only now, 4 years

too late, does the Bush administration recognize that this is the real

war on terror, and they have failed to fight it, failed to deal with it

and failed to prepare for it. -