Mr. Speaker, last week the President's new war czar told

the Congress that the troop escalation plan is failing and that the

American people should expect sectarian violence in Iraq to continue.

Finally someone in the administration is making sense of the

situation on the ground in Iraq, but honesty does not make up for the

fact that President Bush continues to stubbornly oppose any change in

war policy.

In the wake of the deadliest 2-month period in the war, 231 U.S.

service men and women were killed in April and May. The facts on the

ground show an increasingly grim picture.

In fact, a recent internal military assessment shows that the U.S.

military's plan to secure Baghdad against a rising insurgency is

falling far short of its goal. To date, according to the document, only

one-third of the Baghdad

neighborhoods are under the control of American and Iraqi security

forces. The administration's goal was to have the entire city under

control by next month. Clearly, that is no longer possible.

Despite the continued stubbornness of this President, the Democratic

Congress will continue to demand that we move this war in a new

direction.