Mr. Speaker, over a 2-day period this week,

two influential Republican Senators came forward urging that we begin

to pull our troops out of Iraq.

Rather than seriously listening to these opinions, however, the White

House, through its spokesman, Tony Snow, said yesterday that he hoped

Members of Congress would give their Baghdad security plan

Is Tony Snow serious? How long does he expect congressional

Republicans to continue to blindly support the administration's failed

policy? After all, it was the President who said earlier this year that

we should see significant improvements by September. But now,

General Petraeus says that simply is not going to be possible, ladies

and gentlemen.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats and the American people knew that this latest

administration plan would not bring stability to Iraq. We also

concluded long ago that we needed to start bringing our troops home.

But with an administration that still refuses to face reality, we need

help from our congressional Republicans.

Let us hope that the statements made by Senators Lugar and Voinovich

will serve as a wake-up call to House Republicans to finally join us in

changing course in Iraq.