Madam Speaker, since last month's bombing of the holiest

Shiite shrine, the sectarian violence we all feared has begun to engulf

Iraq. But while Iraq is on the brink of civil war, all the

administration gives us are mixed messages and finger-pointing.

The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq says the country is nearing civil war and

that we have opened a Pandora's box by toppling Saddam Hussein. Yet

General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has a

totally different view. Over the weekend he said,

Meanwhile, Secretary Rumsfeld puts the blame squarely on the press:

Which is it? A Pandora's box? The brink of war? Or an exaggerated

news story only to sell papers and boost ratings? Yet instead of

demanding answers from the administration, this Congress has turned a

blind eye.

It is time for this hear-no-evil, see-no-evil Congress to open its

eyes and ears. Americans want more than mixed metaphors and finger

pointing. They want a policy. They deserve real answers, and it is our

job to find them. We need new priorities for America rather than the

same old policies that have gotten us here.