Mr. Speaker, after watching last night's

Presidential address, I must question whether or not our President

actually listens to anyone besides the same neoconservative ideologues

who are the architects of the fiasco in Iraq and who have insisted that

victory in Iraq is just around the corner.

Clearly the President is not listening to his top generals on the

ground who have expressed doubt in the President's call for a surge in

troops; nor is he listening to the advice of the bipartisan Iraq Study

Group, which has called for a redeployment of troops and additional

training for Iraqi security forces; nor is he listening to the Iraqi

people, 78 percent of whom say the presence of American troops is

adding to, rather than controlling, the violence.

Most importantly, the President isn't listening to the American

people, who sent a clear message last November that his policies in

Iraq aren't working, and that a change of course is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the President's plan to escalate this

war. I believe the solutions to the problems in Iraq are political

ones. And I will support my colleagues in using the constitutional

authority vested in the Congress to control our future involvement in

Iraq.