Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush had a chance

to change the direction of the war in Iraq, but he rejected it. He

rejected a plan that would finally hold the Iraqi Government

accountable for meeting the benchmarks that he laid out earlier this

year.

According to the nonpartisan Brookings Institute, the Iraqi

Government is failing to meet the political benchmarks they were

supposed to make. By vetoing the bill, the President was condoning such

inaction.

The President claims the situation is getting better in Iraq. Wrong.

April was the deadliest month of the year and one of the deadliest of

the entire war.

Retired General William Odom said last week, and I'm quoting,

General Odom is correct. Today our troops are serving as referees in

a deadly civil war that shows no end in sight. This Congress offered

the President a dramatic change, and he rejected it. We're not going to

give up, because ending this war is simply too important.