Mr. Speaker, many of my friends ask me as we struggle

to fund this war, why are the Iraqi Parliamentarians going on a 2-month

vacation? The answer is very simple: Self-preservation. The AP reported

that ``a few shells'' fell in the Green Zone last weekend. Well, my

sources in Amman and in Baghdad told me that 47 mortar rounds landed in

the Green Zone on Sunday, and on Monday they hit the parliament

building, destroying the office of Dr. Mashhadani 5 minutes after he

left it.

The AP also reports that the Defense Minister, Mr. Obeidi, has told

reporters that Iraq's military was drawing up plans in case U.S. forces

left the country quickly.

It sounds to me like we are looking at off-the-hotel-roof in Vietnam,

or maybe it was the pullout from Beirut.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, we could make the President be honest with us

about what he is actually planning. The world can't figure it out.