Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voiced their

strong opposition to the handling of the war in Iraq. On the day after

the election, it appeared that President Bush had finally gotten the

message when he removed Secretary Rumsfeld, the man who bears a great

deal of responsibility for the failed Iraq policy. However, there is

now some doubt whether the President fully comprehended the magnitude

of the quagmire his administration created and continues to defend.

The situation in Iraq is getting worse, not better. October was the

deadliest month for American troops in over 2 years, and they continue

to play referee in a civil war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

It is clear after last week's election that the American people want

a change in strategy. It is time for the Iraqi people to take control

of their country and to stop the sectarian violence that has made it

impossible to bring stability to that nation. American troops cannot do

it for them. They have got to do it for themselves.

Therefore, it is time to begin redeploying our troops out of Iraq so

that we can better protect our Nation. The President's own intelligence

agencies say the war in Iraq is making us less safe.

When Democrats take control of Congress next year, we will advocate

for a phased redeployment so we can better protect the homeland from

terrorist attacks.