Mr. Speaker, for months now we have heard from our

Republican colleagues that September would be a critical month for the

war in Iraq. Earlier this year when this Democratic Congress and the

American

people voiced their overwhelming opposition to President Bush's troop

escalation plan, our Republican colleagues said,

The problem is, both the Republican Congress and the Bush

administration have been moving the time frame for success on the troop

escalation plan. First it was June. Then it was August. Finally, a

couple of months ago, Republican leaders agreed that September would be

the defining month.

It is clear that President Bush has no intention of ending the troop

escalation in Iraq, even though the Iraqi Government has failed to meet

the benchmarks that he himself outlined earlier this year. President

Bush is determined to leave as many troops in Iraq as possible, no

matter what the facts suggest.

The question now is, will Congressional Republicans finally break

away from the President and do what is right for this Nation and for

the military? Congressional Republicans must realize that the time has

come to change course.