Mr. Speaker, in his speech on Monday night,

President Bush continued to try to justify the invasion of Iraq by

drawing nonexistent links to the 9/11 attacks. The President's misuse

of the fifth anniversary of the attacks shows that he will go to any

length to divert our attention from his failures in Iraq, which has

diverted focus from America's real national security concerns.

President Bush, and most Republicans here in Congress, refuse to

admit that things are not going well in Iraq. One has to only look at a

report that we requested from the President's own Pentagon showing that

the situation in Iraq has greatly worsened. The number of attacks

against Americans and

Iraqis has climbed to its highest level since the war began, and in the

month of July alone 100 Iraqis a day were being killed.

U.S. troops continue to pay too high a price. To date, more than

2,600 brave American soldiers have lost their lives, an additional

19,000 have been wounded, and we have now spent over $320 billion in

Iraq. Do we really need to lose 58,000 soldiers before we stop staying

the same course in Iraq as we did in Vietnam?

It is time for a new strategy in Iraq, one where the Iraqis

themselves, not foreign occupiers, are responsible for their Nation's

future