Mr. Speaker, President Bush continues to say that one of the

most difficult parts of his job is trying to connect the war in Iraq

with the overall war on terror, but I tell you it is a difficult job

because it is clear there is no connection between the war in Iraq and

the overall global war on terror.

Just this past week, a bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee

report concluded that there was no link between Saddam Hussein and al

Qaeda. In fact, the Senators wrote that Saddam

And yet, President Bush continues to contend that our Nation's safety

depends on what happens on the streets of Baghdad. With all due

respect, this is just not the case.

The President is trying to convince the American people that al Qaeda

is responsible for all of the violence in Iraq. In reality, the overall

majority of the violence today comes from the growing sectarian

divisions between the Sunnis and the Shias, a civil war which some of

us believe has begun.

From day one, the Iraq war diverted the Bush administration's

attention from those who attacked us on 9/11. Today, Osama bin Laden is

still at large, and the Taliban is alive and well in Afghanistan.

It is time for the President to focus his attention on those

responsible for the horrific 9/11 attacks 5 years ago.