Mr. Speaker, we now know the truth was the first

casualty of the President's war in Iraq. Ironically, the truth was not

shot down by a cruise missile but by the Commander in Chief.

Instead of openly telling Congress and the American people that he

wanted to take out Saddam, the President secretly diverted $700 million

from the war in Afghanistan to prepare for the invasion in Iraq without

telling the Congress, $700 million meant to help find and deal with

Osama bin Laden on behalf of the 9/11 victims, on behalf of America.

Another Republican in the White House the last time America faced

this secrecy was Richard Nixon, whose legacy is a profound mistrust in

government that lingers to this day.

Just as America did 3 decades ago, it is time to shine the bright

light of an open and democratic society on what the administration did.

I call on the Speaker and the Congress to hold hearings, just as

America did during Watergate, to get to the truth, the whole truth, and

nothing but the truth about the President's war in Iraq.