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Mr. Speaker, last week we had a big debate about Iraq,

and our battles over there continue. There were a lot of accusations

about which party cut and run, yielded by those on the other side who

said Democrats wanted to cut and run.

It is ironic because this is the first war in American history that a

party and a President has chosen to divide Americans on the war rather

than unite them.

But let's take the concept of cutting and running. In the spring of

2002, American forces had Osama bin Laden on the run in Tora Bora and

Afghanistan, but the administration decided to cut and run from that

fight taking resources appropriated for Afghanistan and moving them

onto the field of Iraq and cutting and running from Afghanistan and its

responsibilities of isolating and getting Osama bin Laden.

Then Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of Defense, led the charge into

Iraq with a cut-and-run mentality, touting what he called the 10-30-30

strategy, to bug out of Iraq as soon as we finished invading: 10 days

of war, 30 days of occupation, and 30 days of transition.

His prediction was by May of 2003 we would have less than 30,000

American troops in Iraq.

So I ask, how are we doing on Don Rumsfeld 10-30-30? His entire

mentality was to get out of Iraq as quickly as possible. And we have

been bogged down in Iraq because of his cut-and-run mentality, because

he had too few troops, not a plan for the occupation for Iraq at all.

And when you go back and think about it, they promised a quick war,

and we got a long war. When the Republican Congress cut and run from

its responsibility oversight, how did that war change?

They said we were going to find weapons of mass destruction, and all

we got was sand. But the Republican Congress cut and run from its

responsibility of oversight.

They said we were going to have a conventional war, and we ended up

with an insurgency. And the Republican Congress and Don Rumsfeld cut

and run from their responsibility of oversight and changing the

strategy.

They said we were going to be treated as liberators, and we became

occupiers. And they cut and run from the responsibility of oversight,

and Don Rumsfeld, the Secretary of Defense, cut and run from

understanding the type of conflict we had.

They said we needed no more than 130,000 troops, and it has become

self-evident that we needed more troops than even in the first Gulf

War, and that Bremer, the then President's ambassador, and others had

asked for more troops, and the administration and, most importantly,

the Secretary of Defense cut and run from his responsibility to provide

those troops.

And that doesn't even count the Kevlar vests, the Humvees, and the

other types of equipment that the troops needed at every step of the

way. The Republican Congress and Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld cut

and run from their responsibility, and that reality that they met with

in Iraq cut right into their ideology of cutting and running from their

responsibilities.

And need I remind the Secretary of Defense of the words of Winston

Churchill. ``Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and

easy. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the

signal is given, he is no longer the master of the policy, but the

slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events.''

Or as Don Rumsfeld himself likes to say, ``Stuff happens, and it's

untidy.'' Perhaps it turned out untidy because from day 1 the

administration had a cut-and-run attitude towards the results of the

war.

Don Rumsfeld convinced the President to cut and run on the safety of

our troops when it came to Kevlar vests and Humvees. Over objections of

GEN Eric Shinseki and Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of

Defense Rumsfeld produced a plan to invade a nation of 25 million with

only 130-some-odd-thousand troops.

GEN Anthony Zinni, Commander of the U.S. forces in the Middle East,

said, ``We are paying the price for the lack of credible planning or

the lack of a plan. Ten years of planning were thrown away.''

LTG Greg Newbold, top operations officer for the Joint Chiefs of

Staff, put it more succinctly and clearly. ``My sincere view is that

the commitment of our forces to this fight was done with a casualness

and a swagger that are the special province of those who have never had

to execute these missions or bury the results.''

Secretary Rumsfeld's spokesman Larry DiRita visited Kuwait in 2003

and said, ``We don't owe the people of Iraq anything. We're giving them

their freedom, and that's enough.''

So when it comes to the accusation of cutting and running, let's look

at the record. And the record is quite clear that although the slogan

is easy to throw around, that it is the mentality of the Secretary of

Defense.