But false claims seem to be the modus operandi in politics these days. The truth gets tailored to fit the occasion. Nowhere is this more

evident than on the subject of Iraq. Whether it be weapons of mass

destruction or an imminent threat or mushroom clouds, the reason for

the war changes faster than the weather. Talk about flip-flops. There

you have it.

The White House said that our troops would be welcomed with flowers,

and yet our soldiers saw mortar attacks and suicide bombings. The White

House said the world would be with us in the war and the reconstruction

in Iraq, but the coalition of the willing was never that large and has

become the coalition of the wilting. How can the American people trust

a White House that cannot get its stories straight? The flipping and

the flopping from this slippery fish crowd is a sight to behold.

Even now, the White House is trying desperately to portray Iraq as a

nation that is getting back on its feet. Listen to the September 29

Washington Post. The headline: ``Growing Pessimism on Iraq. Doubts

Increase Within U.S. Security Agencies.''

Let me read just the first few paragraphs:

Yesterday's New York Times reports--what I just read was from

yesterday's Washington Post--yesterday's New York Times reports that

there have been 2,300 attacks by insurgents. They have been directed

against civilians and military targets in Iraq in a pattern that

sprawls over nearly every major population center outside the Kurdish

north.

So there you have it--an average of 80 attacks against our forces

each day. The situation in Iraq is far more dire and the future far

more uncertain than White House officials are ever going to admit, and

so the lives of America's sons and daughters are on the line in Iraq,

and still we hear happy talk about success right over the horizon.

Misleading scenarios about Iraq or ludicrous nonsense about banning

the Bible insult the values and the intelligence of West Virginians and

the millions of other Americans who share the beliefs of West

Virginians. Such stuff must not be tolerated. The people of this

country know about honesty, and they must start demanding it from their

leaders.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.