Mr. Speaker, the world and Iraq are better off without

that murderous despot Saddam Hussein in power. But the unanimous report

of the Republican-led Senate Intelligence Committee refutes the Bush

administration's principal premise of the war that Saddam Hussein had

weapons of mass destruction. They concluded he did not, that he

presented a danger. They said the sanctions were working and his

military was degraded and rapidly disintegrating. No links to 9/11; yet

the President said seven times in 32 minutes the American people were

safer because of the war in Iraq.

He can say it, but it does not make it so. Osama bin Laden is still

out there plotting and planning. We are on heightened alert. They say

he is going to attack anytime soon, but he has given a bye for the last

2 years by the Bush administration because of their obsession with Iraq

instead of those who attacked us on 9/11.

We are not safer because of the war in Iraq. We are in fact more at

risk because Saddam Hussein was not the real threat. It was Osama bin

Laden, who has had the chance to regroup, strengthen his forces, and

plan new attacks because the Bush administration has not been

adequately pursuing it.