Mr. Speaker, you cannot solve a problem if you do not

acknowledge that you have a problem. In that light, I appreciate and

applaud the comments of outgoing Under Secretary of Defense Doug Feith

made to the Washington Post concerning the costly mistakes made in

Iraq.

During a recent interview, Mr. Feith said,

Further, he noted the transfer of power to Iraqis did not happen fast

enough and that we were not able to train the Iraqis.

Mr. Feith's comments stand in contrast to the President's inability

and unwillingness to acknowledge any errors made in the Iraq war

effort.

The administration did a great job planning for a quick victory on

the battlefield and for occupation, yet things have not turned out as

planned. Some of today's challenges are a direct result of those

mistakes made by the administration.

After 1,800 American lives, more than 10,000 wounded American GIs and

$340 billion with no end in sight, now is the time to level with the

American people. If we are going to be successful, we must work

together, and to work together, you must be frank and honest.

Mr. Feith, thank you for your recent candor. Mr. President, we can do

it. We are here to help, but it starts with truth and candor.