Madam Speaker, it has been an extraordinary series of

days: closed door sessions in the United States Senate, accusations and

recriminations by a former President of the United States.

President Jimmy Carter said in the last 24 hours that intelligence

was ``manipulated'' in the runup to the war in Iraq. And yet, as the

Wall Street Journal reports today, Madam Speaker, four separate

independent investigations found otherwise.

Let me say from my heart, I was here the night we voted to give the

President the authority to go to war, and it was a combination: Saddam

Hussein's rejection of over a dozen United Nations resolutions, an

appalling record on human rights, and the complete agreement of every

intelligence service in the western world that he possessed weapons of

mass destruction, a confidence that was derived from the fact that he

not only had possessed them before, but Saddam Hussein had used weapons

of mass destruction against his own people, killing thousands in the

early 1990s.

There was no manipulation. The war in Iraq was just, is just, and the

freedom of the teeming millions who established a constitutional

republic 1 week ago supports that conclusion.