Mr. Speaker, last week, President

Bush said it was irresponsible for people to rewrite the way the war

began, and the White House communications director said the American

people expect an honest debate. I could not agree with both statements

more.

Then, yesterday, the President donned his flight jacket and suggested

that he was going to attack his critics and, in fact, attacked his

critics rather than contribute to the honest debate.

The American people need to know, after the dramatic failure of

intelligence, just how that intelligence was

used, how it was emphasized, how it was manipulated, and who was the

source of much of the intelligence that this administration used to

hook people into the war in Iraq.

Did they use the intelligence provided by Mr. Chalabi, who was on our

payroll, and by Mr. Chalabi's defectors, who paid and bribed to provide

that intelligence to the administration? Did the administration, and

this goes to the crux of the question: Did the administration do the

due diligence that was necessary before they made the decision to put

American men and women in harm's way into Iraq? Did they look at the

case and make the case that this was an imminent threat to the security

of the United States?

So far, we do not have the answers to those questions. We know that

there was a concerted effort within the Department of Defense, within

the administration to push us into the war in Iraq. We now need to know

how that was done. We need that honest debate. We do not need the

President to continue to attack his critics.

The American people are entitled to that debate. They are entitled to

the results of the investigations that were promised 17 months ago, and

nothing has happened from those investigations.