Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Post reports that at the

time this administration brought us to war in Iraq, Saddam Hussein

posed not the gathering threat that President Bush and Vice President

Cheney continue to claim he was, but rather, a diminishing one.

The findings of the chief U.S. weapons inspector in Iraq are but one

more example of a President and a Vice President intent on misleading

the American people into war and blind to the realities of Iraq today.

This comes one day after the startling admission by the former head of

the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, Paul Bremer, that we did

not have enough troops on the ground after the invasion to guard

sensitive areas like weapons stockpiles. Today, those very weapons are

being used against our troops by militants and by terrorists.

At every step of the way, determining the threat level posed by

Saddam, how much the war would cost, how many casualties America would

bear, George Bush and Dick Cheney have been consistent, consistently

wrong. As we saw last night and last Thursday in the debates, George

Bush and Dick Cheney are incapable of fixing Iraq because they refuse

to see the mess that they have created there.

They refuse to see the mess that they have created in the U.S.

economy.

The American people? They see it every single day.