Madam Speaker, this week we passed two milestones in

Iraq: The constitution was ratified, and, tragically, the 2,000th

American died. These milestones, one positive, one clearly negative,

provide us with an opportunity to review our progress in Iraq. This is

not a time to debate how we got into Iraq. What is important is

resolving the mess.

Hear what the experts are saying: Retired Army Lieutenant General

William Odom, former head of the National Security Agency, said that

the invasion of Iraq

Brent Scowcroft, National Security Adviser under the first President

George Bush, said,

are trying to do it in

Iraq.

And Lawrence Wilkerson, a retired lieutenant colonel and former

Secretary of State Colin Powell's former Chief of Staff at the State

Department, said President Bush's foreign policy was ``ruinous'' and

said that

These are not the words of partisans or the board members of

MoveOn.org. As these experts and the American people know, it is time

for a new direction and new priorities. We can do better. The current

path is not a path to success. It is time for the President to level

with the American people and produce a plan forward.