Madam Speaker, scripture tells us, ``David consulted with

the captains of thousands and hundreds and with every leader.''

Throughout the war in Iraq, the President has failed to adequately

consult with the American people and their Congress or other countries

in the region whose best interests are also served by a stable Iraq. He

has long recognized that staying the course in Iraq is not working, yet

he stubbornly stays the course.

The Congress has a duty to make sure once sent into harm's way for

good cause, our troops are equipped and supplied with everything

necessary to accomplish a given mission. The Congress has an equal duty

to change or end a given mission, when circumstances, realities and

rationales demand it.

We in Congress want to work with him to bring our troops home from a

more stable

Iraq. We should not only ensure that the people are given a full

accounting of what the President is expecting of our troops in the

coming months, and how much it will cost our Treasury, but we must also

demand accounting of what the war in Iraq has cost the U.S., and our

men and women in uniform, over the last four years.