Well, President Bush and Vice President Cheney have made

much on the talk shows of the last 2 weeks saying the Congress--the

Democrats--are trying change direction in Iraq and should listen to the

military professionals. Now, if only this administration had taken its

own advice. If they had listened to the military professionals and the

intelligence professionals, we would never have gone to war in Iraq.

The trail of this administration to the sad fourth anniversary of

Mission Accomplished is littered with professional, military and

intelligence advice that was either ignored, discarded or deliberately

distorted.

There were no links to 9/11 and al Qaeda. That was recently

declassified in a report on April 6 of this year.

There were no weapons of mass destruction, despite statements from

the likes of Vice President Cheney.

The war has drug on for 4 long years since the President--dressed as

a fake fighter jock--landed on the deck of an aircraft carrier and

declared Mission Accomplished. Since that day, more than two U.S.

soldiers have died every day for 1,460 days. Three thousand three

hundred forty-two have died, 3,205 since George Bush proclaimed mission

accomplished.

Now, they have been so wrong all along with their inside advice,

their made-up intelligence, their own neocon theories. They were wrong

about, again

Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz, who was

promoted to the World Bank so he could get his girlfriend a job. He was

kind of wrong, too.

Now the scandals are unfolding about what little reconstruction has

been done and how poorly it was done. But Halliburton has benefited

tremendously--over $25 billion of no-bid contracts which has probably

boosted Vice President Cheney's portfolio quite a bit. So there have

been some successes in this effort.

Our troops have done everything that was asked, many of them now on

their second and third tour of duty. They are mired in the midst of a

1,400-year-old sectarian conflict--a civil war. The Iraqi government

has delivered on no promises to take meaningful steps to end that civil

war. There is not a singular military solution to this conflict. There

must be a political solution in Iraq. There must be diplomacy in the

region. And yes to the President and the Vice President--we need a new

direction.

And this Congress is listening to the professionals. Unfortunately,

mostly we have to hear from the retired generals and the others because

those who are still in uniform are being gagged by this administration

from giving their true opinions about the changes that are necessary to

extract our troops from the midst of that conflict.

This is a sad fourth anniversary. But it is the first anniversary of

attempts by this Congress to stand up for its constitutional

obligations and begin to try and change course, to end the stay-the-

course, open-ended commitment of George Bush and Dick Cheney who have

been wrong every step of the way.

Someone else needs to push for change in Iraq, because it will never

come from this White House.