Mr. Speaker, throughout most of our history, the world

has admired the United States for our dedication to freedom,

international law, and human rights. But today America's prestige is in

the pits because of the administration's reckless occupation of Iraq.

The resignation last week of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy

at the State Department brought new attention to our low standing in

the world. The Under Secretary was hired in 2005 to improve our image

in the world with a public relations campaign. But the effort failed.

It failed because no amount of spin could overcome the catastrophic

consequences of our occupation of Iraq.

Today, according to the Pew Global Attitudes Project, our image in

the world is actually worse than it was before the public relations

campaign began. Pew surveyed 33 countries and found that the United

States is viewed less favorably in 26 of those countries. To be fair to

the Under Secretary, her bosses in the White House had done a good job

of trashing America's image in the world long before she started her

job.

At the beginning of this decade, Mr. Speaker, the United States was

viewed very favorably in many countries. But not anymore. For example,

78 percent of the German people viewed the United States favorably in

the year 2000. Now it's just 37 percent. In Spain we have gone from a

favorability rating of 50 percent to 23 percent. In Great Britain we

have gone from 83 percent to 56 percent. And in France we have gone

from 62 to 39.

In the Muslim world, we have just about fallen off the charts. In

Turkey, for example, we have gone from 52 percent to just 12 percent.

And, most tragically, our occupation of Iraq has undermined support

for American leadership in the fight against terrorism. In fact, less

than half the people in all the countries I just cited are now willing

to follow our lead.

We shouldn't be surprised by this. It is much harder to convince

others to get behind us in the fight against terrorism when they

actually believe that we are the threat to peace ourselves. And it's

much harder for us to fight many other world problems, including

poverty, disease, lack of education, and global warming when our

standing in the world has hit rock bottom.

This foreign policy disaster is the result of a White House that has

run amok for nearly 7 years. When you tear up your treaties, walk away

from your friends, condone torture, go to war under false pretenses,

and carelessly throw around words like ``World War III,'' you don't

make America stronger; you make America weaker by destroying our

credibility and undermining our moral authority.

The American people understand this, and they are demanding a new

course for our Nation. They know the administration will never give us

that; so they are looking to Congress to do the job. So far we have

failed, but we have the power to turn things around, the power of the

purse. We must use it, and we must use it to insist that any further

funding for Iraq be dedicated to bringing our troops home. We must

fully fund the safe, orderly, and timely redeployment of our troops out

of Iraq. And we must also force the withdrawal of all of our military

contractors who are acting like thugs in our Nation. We have a chance.

We have a chance right now. If we don't take advantage of it, we will

have failed our children and we will have failed America.