Madam Speaker, the troop surge in Iraq has clearly

failed. It has failed to achieve its purpose. The troop surge has

failed not because of our troops, but because of the failures of

politicians here in Washington and in Iraq. This President's surge has

been as successful as the President's boast to catch Osama bin Laden

``dead or alive.''

We now have three reports from entities at least somewhat independent

from the Bush propaganda machine that confirm the obvious. The National

Intelligence Estimate providing the thinking of the intelligence

community that, instead of getting better, the situation in Iraq will

get worse:

The Independent Commission on Security Forces

concluded that the Iraqi Interior Ministry is ``dysfunctional.'' It is

so bad that it cannot be fixed; they recommend that it be disbanded.

The Government Accountability Office evaluated the surge, and it judged

President Bush's policy using his own criteria with a clear ``F,'' a

clear failure, a fiasco, a fatal flop, with only 3 of 18 benchmarks

having been met.

Today, General Petraeus can cite whatever selective statistics that

his political bosses may permit him to disclose, but the facts are that

each and every month this year has involved more deaths of American

troops than each month, including August last year. And despite the

ethnic cleansing that has already displaced 3.5 million Iraqis, the

increasing violence continues to inflict an increasingly deadly toll on

Iraqi families.

What is life like for those Iraqis who survive? Almost half earn less

than $1 a day; 70 percent lack access to adequate water; and 1/3 remain

in dire need of emergency food aid.

When the surge was announced, the White House said

And as summer approached, the White House said

Well, now that this much overrated September is here, they

cry

The only real mystery about President Bush's September decision has

been what new excuse he would offer to justify staying the same old

deadly course. And as the American people have seen through the

duplicity of each and every other excuse, the President has returned to

his original ploy: 9/11, coincidentally, just as we receive this report

on the anniversary of 9/11. He claims that

That is false and he knows it is false. But fear with

deception is all he has left to rationalize the pain of the many, the

sacrifice of the brave, and the loss of $3 billion every single week.

As usual, this President is dead certain and dead wrong. What he

seeks is war without limits, war without end. Under his direction,

General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker propose a war that continues

for probably another decade, the

Now Congress must respond to the President's propaganda surge with a

truth surge, with a memory surge, reminding America of the repeated

false cries of ``progress'' and phony excuses that have only brought

our families more insecurity. Congress must learn from the courage

continually displayed by our troops. Appeasement will not stop these

wrong-headed Administration policies. More blank checks will only drain

our national treasury while fueling more death and destruction that

only endangers American families.

And so today we note the surge has failed, but we respectfully and

sincerely thank General Petraeus and all of our troops who serve

America and are doing their jobs. But we know we must do our job. It is

long past time for Congress to act. Our best hope remains a safe and

orderly, fully-funded, phased redeployment that begins immediately.