Mr. Speaker, last night the President gave his State of

the Union address to the Nation and to the Congress; and he brought up,

rather surprisingly, weapons of mass destruction. The President said

that American inspectors have

in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what a weapons of mass destruction-related

program activity is. I would like to find out. I do know this: it is

not weapons of mass destruction. We have not found weapons of mass

destruction in Iraq. David Kay, the American inspector, has not found

them. The international inspectors did not find them.

Like many Members of this House, I voted in favor of the war in Iraq.

I did so in order to disarm Saddam Hussein of weapons of mass

destruction. I am glad that we have defeated Hussein. I am glad he is

in our custody. We and the Iraqi people are better off with him in

custody. He was a murderous tyrant. But we have not found the weapons

of mass destruction, and it is clear that an extraordinary amount of

exaggeration and deception occurred from the White House on the subject

of weapons of mass destruction before we went to war in order to win

congressional support for going to war.

The President talked last night about our international coalition.

The President would like us to believe that we have a broad-based and

effective international coalition in Iraq to move forward with securing

what is still an unstable country and to move forward with

reconstruction. He listed a long number of nations that have supplied

some number of troops to the efforts in Iraq.

The fact is that well over 90 percent of the troops in Iraq are

American. About 95 percent of the money being spent in Iraq is American

taxpayer dollars, well over $160 billion to date. The fact is that we

did not turn effectively to our traditional and historic allies and

move forward with the international community in order to build a

coalition to defeat Hussein in Iraq.

The President, when he won his authority to go to war, made a number

of commitments. He said that he would exhaust diplomatic options before

going to war. He did not. He said he would allow the international

inspectors the opportunity to complete their work in Iraq. He did not.

He said he would go to the United Nations and build a coalition, and he

did not. And now the President would still have us believe that we are

on a successful hunt and are turning up weapons of mass destruction in

Iraq as part of a broad-based coalition in that country, and neither of

those statements is true.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the arrogance, the

unilateralism, and the cowboy diplomacy of the President and the White

House have made our challenges in Iraq much harder than they should

have been and have made our war on al Qaeda and terror riskier and

harder than it should be.