Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan gave a

quote there concerning the briefing of Congress. Could the gentleman

read that again and attribute where the source of that comment was? Was

that an observation or was that a direct quote from someone? Perhaps he

can read that text.

So we can make absolutely sure, this is Mr. Hersh

reporting what information was coming to him, that that was the intent

of this approach; is that correct?

Mr. Speaker, on that point, perhaps one of my

esteemed colleagues could enlighten me as to the status of Mr. Chalabi

and his brethren with respect to the sovereignty issue that is supposed

to come to full fruition on June 30. I am unable to determine from my

inquiries as to exactly where the United Nations representative, Mr.

Chalabi, and Mr. Bremer cross paths.

And to the degree or extent that they are in contact with one

another, let alone in league with one another, exactly what the

elements of that sovereignty will be with respect to this Iraqi

governing council and Mr. Chalabi. Do any of my colleagues have any

information on that or is everybody as much in the dark as I believe

the American people and the Iraqi people are?

I, unfortunately, believe that we probably have a

pretty good idea what is going to happen at that point. I believe that

the American Armed Forces will be set adrift on a desert sea of

anxiety, insecurity, and ineptitude.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Delahunt) has characterized the

present situation with respect to our policy as one of rampant

incompetence, but I think that it is unfortunately all too safe to say

that that will manifest itself on June 30 with an utter incapacity to

discern even momentarily what the military mission of the United States

Armed Forces will be at that point, other than to try to survive the

day, survive the week, survive the month, survive any stop-loss that

the Secretary of Defense might impose on the troops there and then get

home.

Perhaps it would be useful for us to note at this

point that Mr. Chalabi does not occupy his position as a result of

unilateral action on his part. Mr. Chalabi occupies this position

because of the overt policies of this administration. The reason he is

there, the reason that we are unable at this stage, at this stage, just

prior to June 30, to say exactly what his position will be in the

future is because he continues to receive the favor of this

administration. He is there because Mr. Bush saw that he went there. He

is there because he is supported to this day, to this moment by this

administration.

Everything that has been said concerning him this evening is true. It

is factual. It is contextual. We understand the meaning of what he said

when he said we were heroes in error. And I happened to see that

announcement; and let me tell my colleagues the words do not convey the

sense of triumph, the sense of disdain, the condescending attitude or

sense of his countenance when he pronounced those words. He was pleased

with himself that he had been able to mislead the administration and

that he was getting away with it.

It is one thing to deliberately mislead someone. They may not know

what was going on. They may not know what happened. Maybe they should

have known. Maybe they should have been paying more attention in the

administration, but to give them the widest benefit of a doubt, perhaps

they did not. But once someone announces to your face that you have

been misled, and deliberately so, to continue to receive the favor of

the person who made the appointment and allows it to continue, tells

more about the person who does the appointing and ostensibly holds the

power than it does about Mr. Chalabi.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that these discussions

that we have held and are holding weekly on the floor here are meant to

communicate with our colleagues and with the American people. This is

our forum to do it. I think those who may be observing our proceedings

here today need to take up, if they believe what we have said tonight,

the cause of having Mr. Bush remove his support from Mr. Chalabi.

I think people across the country have to ask their representatives,

as well as communicate with the White House. They have to ask their

Representatives and Senators, do you support this Chalabi

administration and the Iraqi Governing Council? Do you support Mr.

Chalabi being a part of this sovereignty movement after June 30? If you

do, there have to be serious questions about your competence to be

holding office and acting on our behalf.

This is a question that needs to be asked. Americans need not feel

impotent, they need not feel they are merely observers of what other

people are doing to you and doing to this country. You can demand of

your elected Representatives and Senators, where do you stand on this

Chalabi issue?

It is not a matter of getting an individual, I am sure we all agree.

He is representative of a failure of leadership. His position in the

Iraqi Governing Council is an insult to those people who have been

wounded and who have been killed during this war. It is an insult to

those of us who uphold genuine ideas about freedom and democracy and

their spread. So long as this man is there, being the official

representative of the United States to the Iraqi Governing Council, to

that same degree will we be disenabled from achieving any of these

goals, regardless of how one feels about going to war in Iraq or not.

This is what needs to be done. You have to demand of your

representatives, where do you stand on this issue of his continued

presence as being officially supported by the United States of America?

This is why it is so important, and I want to make

sure everyone understands. We can do this. We do have a bill coming up

this week, and if we are able to get on the agenda on the floor, we can

stop the support for this group. It is fundamental to advancing the

genuine interests of the United States and reestablishing some

semblance of a foundation on behalf of freedom that we stop Chalabi

from being represented on the Governing Council, as having the support

of the United States of America.