Mr. Speaker, my constituents are tired of being suckered

with false information that both precipitated and continue this war in

Iraq, and they want some accountability of what happened with such a

massive amount of misinformation given to the American people leading

up to this war. They want accountability, and they deserve

accountability.

We offered today an amendment to the defense authorizations bill to

be considered this week that will give Americans some accountability on

the source of this information, of Mr. Chalabi's rogue group, this

alleged Iraqi National Congress. And there is nothing congressional

about it. It is a bunch of folks that want to go back in and run Iraq

and who convinced the neoconservatives who are behind this war that we

would all be greeted with rose petals because Mr. Chalabi would be seen

as the great savior of Iraq.

This great fantasy was bought hook, line and sinker by the President

of the United States and the administration, and it was a fraud. And it

is time for the American taxpayers to have accountability here.

Now, what I am told, and I want to make sure it is true, but I am

told taxpayers are still paying this group, this group that gave us,

apparently willfully, or potentially willfully, false information

leading to this war. We are still paying $350,000 a month for their

great services in Iraq. What did this group do for the American people?

It got us into a war based on false administration they gave to the

administration. The administration was all too happy to accept that

there were weapons of mass destruction there; that there was a

connection to 9-11 and that they would be greeted as liberators, the

three legs of this stool, all of which were false. And we are still

paying these people.

So we will offer an amendment, hopefully tomorrow it will be allowed,

I hope the majority will allow it to be considered, which will cut that

money off, assuming the things I have suggested are true; and I believe

they are. So we need some accountability here of this group. We cannot

continue it.

And I want to make sure people understand how dire this is and how

hoodwinked this administration was. And, frankly, I think they were

patsies for this group. We paid millions of dollars very shortly after

the Iraqi Army collapsed to fly into Iraq, I am told like some 800 or

900 of the cohorts and the coconspirators, if I can use the pejorative

term that I think is appropriate here, of Mr. Chalabi's. We flew them

into Baghdad, and it was going to be the sort of great saviors flying

in that would be the recipient of all these rose petals and would

quickly reestablish them as the functioning government of Iraq.

Surprise. They were not really welcomed with open arms in Baghdad.

Totally failed. Wasted our millions of dollars, and they are still

taking money from the taxpayers. Now, here is one mistake, at least one

mistake the administration ought to own up to and fix so we do not

continue pouring money down a rat hole in Iraq with the Iraqi National

Congress, which has not helped us one wit.

Because, frankly, what Iraq needs is a real congress which is elected

by the Iraqi people. These guys who are under indictment in Jordan, you

cannot parachute him in and expect him to be welcomed as the savior of

Iraq.

Let me say one more thing. We need elections sooner

rather than later in Iraq to vest them with their own destiny, and I

will offer an amendment to do that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman has put his finger on

what we ought to call the Chalabi principle in the Bush administration.

The Chalabi principle is this: If you tell the truth, you get fired by

the President. If you tell a falsehood, you get promoted and praised.

That is a pretty strong statement, but let us look at the facts.

General Shinseki told the truth. He said we are going to need several

hundred thousand troops to prevent massive looting and anarchy after

the army collapses, and it was true; so they canned him. General Zinni

said the same thing; he gracefully was allowed to retire. Joe Wilson

told the truth and pointed out that the President told a significant

falsehood to the American people and Congress in the State of the Union

address, asserting that Iraq was getting uranium to build a nuclear

weapon. He told the truth and so the President's people punished Mr.

Wilson's wife by outing her CIA employment, which should be a Federal

crime.

So if you tell the truth in the Bush administration, you can canned,

punished, and your wife's career gets destroyed. But if you tell a

falsehood, like Mr. Chalabi's outfit who gave us repeated

misinformation, according to the Secretary of State, you get praised,

you get the President trying to get you an in in the new government in

Iraq, and you get $350,000 a month of taxpayers' money, together with

the millions of dollars we spent trying to parachute them into Baghdad

to form a new government, which was an abject failure, you are praised.

If you are Paul Wolfowitz, who told the Congress that oil revenues

would pay for this and we would be greeted with rose petals, you are

praised by the President.

And if you are the Defense Secretary, if you are wrong about WMD,

wrong about the connection with 9/11, wrong about the number of troops

we need, and wrong about not having armor and how we are going to pay

for it and how much it is going to cost, if you are wrong about not

having early elections, the Vice President says you are the best

Secretary of Defense America has ever had. This is the Chalabi

principle. We need to break this.

This is one of the things wrong with our Iraqi policy. The people

telling the truth are not listened to, and the people fouling up get

promoted. That needs to change.