Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me,

and I just want to follow up on the point the gentleman from Ohio (Mr.

Strickland) has made, and I welcome my friend, the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. Hoeffel), as well.

I found it particularly offensive that the President of the United

States stood up once more and misled the American people and did not

accept responsibility. As the gentleman indicated, the body armor issue

was well-known or should have been well-known to this administration

prior to the invasion of Iraq. It was clear. It was something that we

all again repeatedly encouraged, and with the leadership of the

gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Strickland) presumed the matter was being

attended to, and it was represented to us that it was being attended

to. It had nothing to do with the $87 billion supplemental budget.

Mr. Speaker, it reminds me of the issue of weapons of

mass destruction when the Polish Prime Minister at the request of the

President of the United States made a commitment of Polish troops,

obviously at some political risk to himself, and when it became clear

that there were no weapons of mass destruction said publicly, ``We were

misled.'' What does that do to the credibility of the United States

when the Prime Minister of Poland, an ally, someone who has made a

contribution of men and women of his nation in terms of the effort in

Iraq, the military invasion, makes that statement?

Again, we have the example of David Kay, appointed by this President,

who took the charge of this White House, who went to Iraq, who led the

efforts to determine whether there were weapons of mass destruction,

who concluded that there were none, and then later and subsequently

when this White House, this President and this Vice President refused

to accept unequivocally the conclusion reached by their own appointee

that there were no weapons of mass destruction, then finally David Kay,

a hawk on the war, by the way, spoke to the Guardian, an English

newspaper and said, ``The administration's reluctance to make that

admission was delaying essential reforms of U.S. intelligence agencies

and further undermining its credibility at home and abroad.''

Admit the mistake, Mr. Bush, come clean with the American people,

accept responsibility rather than shift it because of an election-year

gambit. That is what that is about.

Mr. Speaker, our occupation in Iraq is being

characterized by ineffectiveness, by incompetence. If one just reads

the daily newspaper and sees comments and admissions by the Secretary

of Defense Mr. Rumsfeld and the Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Myers, the number of cities in Iraq that are no longer under

the control of the Interim Iraqi Government and American occupation

forces grows on a daily basis. Fallujah, Ramadi, Baquba, Samarra,

Najaf, Karbala, and perhaps soon a significant section of Baghdad are

no longer under the control of the Interim Iraqi Government. The Baath

Party is experiencing a resurgence, President Bush, except Saddam

Hussein is no longer the head of it.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, what

the Vice President should do, he should reveal those statistics that I

reported to you earlier about the increase in the incidents of

terrorists' acts all over the world that are directly related to the

failed policies of this administration.

To my left there is a photo of the President with an individual by

the name of Ahmed Chalabi, who is the source of much of the faulty

intelligence that the administration was looking for to base its case

on for the American people.

Now we have the FBI investigating the Pentagon, the office of one

Douglas Fife, to determine whether Mr. Chalabi received information

that was passed on to Iran, to Iran, about our policy initiatives and

considerations relative to Iran.

Here we have the President of the United States with an individual

which reports indicate, I am not reaching a conclusion, but which

reports indicate was a spy or a double agent for Iran. This same

gentleman was in this Chamber during the State of the Union address by

this President last January and sat up directly behind the First Lady.

Now, I have to tell you, to follow up on the gentleman from

Washington's point, I would think that anyone who was involved or

connected or listened to Mr. Chalabi, who, by the way, was a convicted

felon in Jordan for embezzlement of some $300 million from a bank in

Jordan and had to flee Jordan, anyone who listened to that individual

should have been fired a long time ago. What an embarrassment to this

administration, what an embarrassment to the United States.