Well, I appreciate this, and I would like to contrast the

phony, alleged sovereignty in Iraq with the real sovereignty and

democracy in the United States; and this is a thought I had while

sitting on the West Lawn of the Capitol watching the fireworks that

were so spectacular on July 4th over the Washington Monument. And as I

was looking at the fireworks, I was

thinking about some of our work on the Iraq Watch, because the thought

struck me that the reason we became a democracy, and such a strong one,

is we had people who were rebellious and questioning and demanding

against their government.

We had a bunch of people in the 18th century who were rebellious to

King George, who abused the trust that this monarch had of his people,

who was not honest with his people, who was fraudulent with his people,

that got his people into difficult positions without their consent. And

the thought struck me that that rebellious, demanding, questioning

attitude that the patriots had that started this country is the same

attitude of folks who are questioning this President who has not told

the truth about the American people that started this war; and we ended

up a sovereign country because we are demanding.

And I just note that as a theme tonight of our Iraq Watch that we

demand the truth from our government, and the truth is that this phony

allegation of sovereignty in Iraq is what I might call rose petal

number 512, because this entire Iraq policy has not been based on

reality. It has been based on a series of rose petals. Number one was

we were told by Mr. Wolfowitz, rose petals literally would be strewn at

our feet. Rose petal number two is when we were told that when we just

caught Uday Hussein, the insurgency would stop. Then we were told when

the other Hussein brother was caught, the insurgency would stop.

Rose petal number 300, I think was when they said Saddam was caught,

the insurgency would collapse. Rose petal number 412 was when they said

all of these people who are doing violent acts in Iraq, they are just a

bunch of foreigners, and as soon as we get the foreigners out, it is

not the Iraqi people who were upset we were running their country, it

is just these people from Syria.

Turned out yesterday we found, like, 5 percent of the people in our

custody are outside of Iraq. The problem we have got is some Iraqis we

are battling with are another rose petal. And this is the ultimate rose

petal that this administration is trying to foist on us, the American

people, that unfortunately is not going to work. We lost three Marines

today following the ``sovereignty'' rose petal.

The fact is we have got to face reality in Iraq. This administration

has never faced reality in Iraq. This administration has consistently

given us misinformation; and until this administration changes its

attitude, or the people in the White House change, we are going to be

in trouble in Iraq.

You know, look at the situation. We keep hearing about, oh, there is

nothing but good news in Iraq, about all these rebuilding programs, and

we have people who are working very hard, people in the military are

working hard. I am sure some of the people at Halliburton are working

hard, too. It is too bad they are charging us twice as much for meals

as they are supposed to be, but I am sure they are working hard.

But when an assessment was done, I believe by the GAO, they found

that less than 2 percent, less than 2 percent of the reconstruction

projects that we voted in October to fund have been done; 140 out of

2,300 reconstruction projects have been done. Electricity is still not

working in Baghdad as much as it was for the average person before the

war.

Yet we continue to get these rose petals that the administration

tries to feed us, and it is this type of attitude based on falsehood

and mysticism that have got us in this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to ask the question

why we are in this fatal, mortal, disastrous situation in Iraq. Why are

we in this situation where we are calling up people whose military

service was essentially over? Why? We have put two of the training

brigades that act as the enemy at various forts around this country,

they pose as the enemy, and that is why we have such a well-trained

Army. We have three of those Army units, and two of them have now been

sent to Iraq to fight the Iraqi insurgents. We are not training our

soldiers adequately.

Why are we in this debacle? I want to suggest it is just a

continuation of the movie ``South Pacific.'' Those World War II

veterans remember that there was a song called ``Happy Talk,'' happy,

happy, happy talk; and that is what this administration has planned a

war over was happy talk.

Look at Paul Wolfowitz, the Assistant Secretary of Defense who came

to us and told us that the American taxpayers would not have to pay a

dollar for this operation. Remember those predictions?

That is right. He said the Iraqi oil is going to pay for

all of this. Look what he said the other day when he was asked what

happened. He said, ``I think there was probably too great a willingness

to believe that once we got to 55 people on the black list, the rest of

those killers would stop fighting.''

Talk about rose-colored glasses, where people are committing suicide

bombings to think that the next day, they were going to join the

chamber of commerce, when we decided there was a new government in

town. This was happy talk that is resulting in the deaths of our

soldiers today and the incapacitation of the greatest military on

Earth.

Just to give an example of how bad it is, I will tell my colleagues,

if I were a soldier holding a 50-caliber on the top

of a Humvee, I would be proud of the people I serve with; but I would

not be very proud of the civilian folks who have gotten me in this

predicament on the streets of Baghdad.

Look at this answer from General Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff, about the civilians of the intelligence community and the

lack of intelligence that our soldiers have been given. He was asked

recently during Senate testimony whether the Iraqi insurgency was being

coordinated from a central hub, and he responded, ``The intelligence

community as far as I know will not give you an answer because they

can't give me an answer.''

So we have these young men and women posted on streets in Iraq and

the civilian folks have not given them intelligence to figure out if

this is even a centrally planned insurgency. This is a huge,

ineffective, incapable, negligent planning of a war; and we have not

even started talking about how we got into the war.

Mr. Speaker, I want to note getting back to the war on

terrorism, where is Osama bin Laden? Where is Osama bin Laden? Why is

the President not talking about Osama bin Laden, who is free tonight

threatening our citizens where they live in our neighborhoods?

We found out last week that this administration is spending five

times more money tracking people who travel to Cuba than they are

trying to interdict the money going to Osama bin Laden, who is

continuing a threat to this country.

This is one example of this administration taking their eye off the

ball of the guy who killed almost 3,000 Americans. We are going to

continue this discussion.