One of my constituents, a young West Point graduate,

a gung-ho Army guy, a guy who loves the Army and who would write me

these e-mails and say, I am so proud of what my soldiers are doing here

in Iraq. So he is not a disgruntled Army guy. But he tells me that

Halliburton is importing Filipinos and paying them very little to do

work that was previously done by the American soldier. So that is an

example of what the gentleman is saying.

This company, Halliburton, my goodness, when are we going to face the

facts? It has been reported, by the way, in an editorial in the

Columbus, Ohio Dispatch that insiders have now said that Halliburton is

housing some of their employees in hotels that cost $10,000 per night,

$10,000 per night, but that is what you can do when you have a cost

plus contract. There is no incentive to hold down cost. They were

paying $100 to get a laundry bag of clothing washed, $100 a bag;

$10,000 a night for a hotel room. And it is the American taxpayer that

is paying that kind of exceedingly high cost.

We are being gouged by Halliburton, the company that Vice President

Dick Cheney was the CEO of. We all know it. The American people know

it. This company is taking the American taxpayer for a ride. And I

believe this administrations needs to step up and say, we are going to

put a stop to it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii, my

friend, for yielding; and I want to thank each of my colleagues for

talking about this important subject.

I do come from Ohio, the heartland of our country. I have so many

veterans in my district, people who are intensely patriotic, people who

honor our country by service, and they have historically. The people in

my district are concerned. They are concerned about the continuing

deaths that are occurring in Iraq. Well over 850 of our American

soldiers have now lost their lives. Many thousands, 4,000 seriously

injured, many more injured with less serious situations.

But the fact is that we just went through the celebration of the 4th

of July; and throughout my district as I went to parades and festivals

and celebrations, I talked with a lot of veterans. Many of these guys

are old World War II guys. They know what war is like. Many of them are

so deeply troubled by what is happening to our soldiers. The fact that

we sent them to battle without adequate equipment, the fact that even

tonight, I would emphasize as we stand here in the safety and security

of this hallowed hall of the House of Representatives, we have American

soldiers in Iraq and they are continuing to drive unarmored Humvees

well after more than a year, certainly, when they should have been

equipped.

So as was said earlier, the planning that went into this war was so

inadequate and inept and, quite frankly, the immaturity of the

decision makers. I am talking about from the Vice President on down to

Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz and Richard Pearl and others. They were so

naive. These folks who were so intent on sending our young men and

women into battle; had these assumptions that were so inadequate and

incorrect and, as a result, we sent soldiers to battle without adequate

equipment, without adequate planning; and it is a tragic result, an

absolute tragic result. Every precious life that has been lost affects

families, children, spouses, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, and the

community that that person has come from.

It just seems to me that we have an administration that somehow does

not understand what is happening. Maybe it is because they know of no

one who is personally involved. It has been pointed out that out of the

435 Members of the House and 100 Senators, that only one of us, out of

the 535 of us, only one of us has a son who is an active duty soldier

engaged in this conflict. So many of us who serve here do not know

anyone who is a soldier in Iraq or in Afghanistan. We do not know of

anyone who has lost a son or a daughter. So it seems to be something

that is removed.

I would like to say just one thing before I yield to my colleagues,

and I say this to the parents in my district; and I think the parents

across this country need to be aware of this. We are now calling up

soldiers for further duties who have already fulfilled their

contractual obligation as soldiers, and the reason we are doing that is

that our military is spread so thin. What would we do if there was an

episode that resulted in the overthrow of the regime in Saudi Arabia,

for example? What would we do? We do not have the soldiers we need to

meet our obligations.

Many parents who listen to these proceedings here in the Chamber may

not feel personally involved in this war effort. They may feel like

that is the President's decision, and we are going to trust the

President. But if they have children, 14, 15, 16, 17 years of age, they

should be paying attention, because if this administration continues in

office and does not change its policies, I think it is inevitable that

we will have a mandatory military draft.

Now, I think that is a fact of life. The President may not want to

admit it. The Secretary of Defense may not want to own up to it. But I

think the facts are that we cannot continue to meet our military

obligations without a military draft under the policies that are being

pursued by this administration.

So the moms and dads in this country who have children may ought to

pay attention.

I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Delahunt).

Those who listen to these proceedings may rightly ask

the question, why are we talking about the failures of the past? Why

are we not talking about what we are going to do in the future?

I think it is relevant to remind ourselves that the very people who

made such blunders of judgment, who deceived the American people, who

promoted this war based on false assumptions, they are the people who

are still in charge. They are the people who are continuing to make the

day-to-day decisions which are resulting in these terrible

miscalculations and terrible blunders. And what is the result? The

result is we are continuing to lose precious American lives.

Now, we had a perfunctory turnover supposedly of authority to the

Iraqis, but every American knows that it is the American soldier that

is continuing to be the target. It is the American soldier that is

continuing to provide whatever security exists in that country, and it

is the blood of the American soldier that is being shed.

I get a little tired of all of this talk about coalitions. The fact

is that it is the American soldier that is bearing the burden. It is

the American taxpayer that is paying the bill, and we need to end that,

and it is going to continue that way until we have a change in policy.

Now, the President has got some answers to give us. I mean, the

American people deserve to know are we going to have the continuation

of bad judgment, bad decisions that is going to just perpetuated this

thing for 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 years. We need to have some answers from the

administration.