Madam Speaker, on Sunday, Iraq's prime minister

unveiled a 24-point plan that included a timetable for U.S. withdrawal.

Last week, the U.S. military's top commander in Iraq briefed the

President and top Republicans about a plan to significantly reduce the

number of U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

For months, Democrats have been calling for a new direction,

including a timetable to redeploy U.S. soldiers out of harm's way; and

the American people have been saying it is time for a new direction

that protects U.S. interests by protecting U.S. soldiers.

The Iraqi people, the American people and the U.S. commanders all say

the same thing: It is time for a timetable. And the President still

says the same thing: Stay the course.

Madam Speaker, the Democrats were wrong. The President's favorite

phrase, stay the course, is not a slogan. It is a direct order for

Republican Members of the Congress to deny their better judgment and

disregard the concern of their American constituents and the top five

military commanders.

The President must have some kind of October surprise in mind. The

President is off course, and until there is a mid-term course

correction, America will remain misled and misguided in Iraq, and U.S.

soldiers will bear the brunt of the President's stubbornness.