Mr. Speaker, we are getting mixed signals from the

administration on the future of the Iraq war.

Last weekend, General Myers laid out a plan for withdrawal. Then,

yesterday, General Peter Schoomaker, the Army Chief of Staff, said,

An open-ended commitment with an open wallet? Really? After 3\1/2\

years, 2,500 lives, nearly a half a trillion dollars, 18,000 wounded,

the American people deserve better than an open-ended commitment with

an open wallet.

How about a strategy for success? The President has said, when the

Iraqis stand up, we will stand down. How does that happen? The Iraqi

people have a constitution. They have had an election. Now, they have

325,000 of the members of the Iraqi security force trained. What is the

standard for success, let alone the strategy for success?

The American people desperately need a strategy, not slogans. We do

not know because the administration does not know. They have no plan,

and the American people are left with an endless occupation. What they

are talking about is 5 more years and $500 billion more.

It is time for a new direction for Iraq. It is time for a new

direction for America.