Mr. Speaker, last year when it became clear that the

United States was unprepared to fight an increasingly hostile and

aggressive Iraqi insurgency, Secretary Rumsfeld told our troops: ``You

have to go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you want.''

Well, I am here tonight to tell Secretary Rumsfeld and the other

members of the Bush administration that

the war in Iraq was started by the government leaders we have, but not

the government leaders we want.

Let us take a look at the folks who are running things at the White

House. Who is weighing in on this war every single day? First, we have

got Scooter Libby, the Vice President's chief of staff. Scooter Libby

was in charge of coordinating the intelligence and communications

strategy for the war in Iraq until last week. Last week, Libby was

indicted by a Federal prosecutor for his role in outing undercover CIA

operative Valerie Plame.

Libby's precise role in this scandal is not yet clear, but it is

suspected that he shopped Ms. Plame's identity to multiple reporters in

an effort to discredit her husband, Ambassador Joe Wilson, who opposed

the invasion of Iraq and cited proof that the administration's claims

of yellow cake in Niger were actually false.

This political assassination reveals the cold, calculated tactics

used by the Bush administration in the buildup to the war. Obviously,

the administration was so righteous in their cause that they would do

anything to stop those who opposed them, including identifying an

undercover CIA agent. Now a Federal investigation is getting to the

heart of those callous prewar tactics. Unfortunately, if Scooter Libby

is the sole administration official to be punished for the governmental

failures that led to the war in Iraq, then he will become a scapegoat

of historic proportions.

Libby's boss, Vice President Cheney, was no less involved in the

planning that led to the war. According to reports, Mr. Cheney badgered

and bullied low-level CIA analysts into misinterpreting evidence

regarding Saddam's supposed nuclear weapons program. Also, we cannot

overlook that Vice President Cheney was the CEO of Halliburton, the

company that has benefited from billions and billions of dollars of

contracts in Iraq. How many bids did Halliburton have to place to get

these massive construction contracts? Surprisingly, not a single one.

That brings us to former CIA Director George Tenet. As the CIA chief

in the months leading up to the war in Iraq, George Tenet personally

vetted much of the intelligence that was cited as evidence of Saddam

Hussein's weapons of mass destruction ``program.'' Today, we are

certain that evidence was completely false. Saddam Hussein did not

possess weapons of mass destruction, nor did he have a program that

could create weapons of mass destruction.

So what did George Tenet receive for presiding over one of the

monumental intelligence failures in modern history? Why, the

Presidential Medal of Honor, of course.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that many of the administration have benefited

personally and professionally from the war in Iraq, while the rank and

file, our soldiers, have suffered a disproportionate share of the

burden. You go to war with the Army you have? Well, I have been to Iraq

and I have got news for the American people: the Army we have is pretty

darn impressive. We ought to be proud of their commitment to America's

security, and we ought to be appalled that their civilian superiors

have not demonstrated an equal commitment to them. It is our country's

highest leaders that we ought to be worried about.

The indictment of those involved in the prewar intelligence would be

a start. After more than 2 years of war, over $200 billion spent,

continued death and continued suffering, it is time to end this awful

game of lies. It is time to end this corruption. Let us support our

troops. Let us bring them home to their families where they belong.