Mr. Speaker, either the Bush administration refuses to

see the reality on the ground in Iraq or they are deceiving the

American people as to the continued war in Iraq. During a Memorial Day

interview on CNN's Larry King, Vice President Cheney said he believed

the insurgency was in its ``last throes.''

Where exactly is the Vice President getting his information? It

certainly is not coming from the generals on the ground. According to a

report from Knight-Ridder, a growing number of senior American military

officers in Iraq have concluded there is no longer a military solution

to the insurgency in Iraq, an insurgency that military leaders on the

ground say is not running out of recruits. In the news report, Lt.

Colonel Frederick Wellman said, ``We can't kill them all. When I kill

one I create three.''

That certainly does not sound like we have the insurgency under

control, and, as the Vice President suggests, that they are in their

``last throes.''

Things are really getting so bad in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, that we are

beginning finally to hear Republican Congressmen step forward and

question some of the outrageous claims made by the Bush administration

in regard to their policy in Iraq. This past weekend, my Republican

friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Jones), came forward and

said that the Bush administration needs to have a deadline for its war

in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Jones) and I have

been next-door neighbors in the Cannon House Office Building for years.

As visitors to our wing of the fourth floor walk down the hallway, they

see the faces of the fallen. Since the beginning of the war, the

gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Jones) has been hanging up the

pictures of the brave American soldiers who have died in Iraq. It

started right outside his door and spread so quickly that the faces are

outside each of the Members' doors of our wing of the Cannon Building.

Another one of our Republican colleagues, the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. Weldon), criticized the

Bush administration for not leveling with the American people about the

real number of Iraqi troops that have been trained to date.

On Sunday's ``Meet the Press,'' the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

Weldon) said, ``We can't come back to America and have our people be

convinced that the Iraqi troops are prepared to take over when they are

not.'' Weldon went on to say that the administration needs to come to

grips with the rising insurgency, again an insurgency that Vice

President Cheney refuses to acknowledge.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kinds of statements we have heard for the

last year from a large group of my Democratic colleagues. We have been

calling on House Republican leaders to hold this administration

responsible for its faulty intelligence. We have called on the House

Republican leadership to hold this administration accountable for the

20-plus billion dollars spent in Iraq. We have called on the House

Republican leadership to call the war leaders at the Pentagon up to

Capitol Hill to explain their war strategy. And to this date, the House

Republican leadership simply refuses to hold the Bush administration

responsible for the way it is conducting the war in Iraq.

It is refreshing to finally hear several Republican colleagues

questioning the actions of this administration. However, it simply is

not enough. At a time when the Army and Marines are having a difficult

time reaching their recruitment goals for the military of the future,

at a time when the Bush administration is painting a far rosier picture

of the number of Iraqi troops that have been trained, at a time when

the Bush administration refuses to admit that the insurgency in Iraq is

getting bigger and more difficult to deal with by the day, the House

Republican leadership cannot continue to ignore a growing number of

Members of this Chamber, of both parties, who are demanding that the

administration level with the American people about the Iraq war.