Mr. Speaker, all of us who have listened to the

suspension debates just before the Special Orders have to acknowledge

that there are not nearly enough post offices in this country to honor

all of those who have fallen as heroes in Iraq. We have to do something

about that. In fact, when it comes to Iraq, the White House does not

seem to know which way is up. Instead of relying on facts and truth,

the Bush administration has two-timed the American people by relying on

doublespeak, innuendos and, worst of all, bald-faced lies.

Last week, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that Iraq's

elections will occur in January of 2005 regardless of what happens on

the ground there. Even if half of Iraq's provinces are under the

control of insurgents, preventing Iraqis from getting to the polls,

elections will still take place. Secretary Rumsfeld validated this type

of sham election by saying that, and I quote him, no election is

perfect. Does that mean he would endorse an American Presidential

election if only 25 of 50 States were able to participate? Then again,

perhaps that is exactly what this administration would endorse.

Subsequent to Secretary Rumsfeld's remarks, Secretary of State Colin

Powell had to slow down the administration's gears regarding the

election issue, stating that the country must be secure for elections

to take place. On ABC's ``This Week'' program, Secretary Powell also

stated that, ``Yes, it's getting worse in Iraq. We have seen an

increase in anti-Americanism in the Muslim world.''

Getting worse in Iraq? That is one of the biggest understatements yet

from the administration that specializes in understatements. During the

past 2 weeks, 29 United States soldiers and at least 250 Iraqis have

been killed, not to even mention how many of our troops have been

severely wounded. U.S. forces now face 70 attacks by insurgents daily.

That is up from 40 to 50 hostile incidents that occurred each day

before the U.S. transferred authority to Iraq's interim government.

Contrast Secretary Powell's comments about Iraq with the

unnecessarily rosy statements given by President Bush and his

mouthpiece in Iraq, interim Iraqi President Ayad Allawi. Despite a

disturbing wave of violence in the past several weeks, our President

recently stated that Iraq is showing signs of steady progress. He has

also made the outrageous claim that only a relative few of the 25

million Iraqis are trying to stop the march of freedom. In fact, there

are thousands of insurgents fighting the American forces in Iraq and

there are likely many, many more thousands who are sympathetic to the

insurgency.

Nobody should be surprised by the Bush administration's doublespeak

on this issue, because the White House has actually gotten quite good

at lying directly to the American people while somehow managing to keep

a straight face.

President Bush delivers only good news, like declaring the mission

accomplished aboard a giant Navy ship. He paints an optimistic picture

of Iraq, saying that the violence is decreasing in scope and intensity.

Then the White House dispatches someone like Colin Powell to deliver

the truth that Iraq is actually still mired in chaos and violence and

that anti-Americanism is on the rise. It amounts to nothing less than

an institutionalized method of a White House that speaks out of both

sides of its mouth, telling lies to the American people. Lies instead

of truth, in spite of the deaths of more than 1,000 U.S. soldiers, at

least 13,000 innocent Iraqi civilians, and let us not forget about the

more than 7,000 gravely wounded U.S. troops who have lost arms and legs

and an inner peace they may never recover. I wonder if these

individuals would agree with President Bush's assessment of steady

progress in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a better way of handling the quagmire in

Iraq. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, a SMART security

platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for sensible, multilateral,

American response to terrorism. If we had been following the SMART

security, we would not be in Iraq in the first place.