Mr. Speaker, Iraq, 1 year later.

First of all, I want to commend our brave troops who proudly serve

our great Nation and risk their lives to preserve our freedom. I praise

their courageous efforts to protect our country, and I am with them 100

percent. They are the best of the best. And I can truly say every

Member of this House, this body, supports them 100 percent. What I do

not support is this misleading Bush administration and this House that

follows them like sheep. Let me repeat that. What I do not support is

this misleading Bush administration and this House, the people's House,

that follows them like sheep.

A new report has been released that shows that George Bush, Dick

Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and Condoleezza Rice made 237 misleading

statements about the threat posed by Iraq in 125 public appearances.

Eighty-four of those statements misled the American people about Iraq's

chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I was horrified last year to learn that 44,000 of our

troops were sent out to battle without proper armor. Forty-four

thousand. How can we ask young men and women to trust us when we make

decisions that involve life and death and then not outfit them with the

best that they need to save their lives. We deployed our young men and

women to Iraq with Humvees that lacked armored protection and

bulletproof windows.

I personally went to Walter Reed where six troops had lost their legs

while riding in Humvees. If they had been riding in the right type of

vehicles, this may not have happened. This use of Humvees in Iraq was

not what they were made for. We need to get our troops the equipment

they need now.

And, Mr. President, you need to spend more time planning for the

safety of our troops and their families in your war efforts and less

time fund-raising and cutting taxes for the rich country club friends

of yours.

There are two or three other points that I want to make. One, many of

my constituents approach me about BRACC and the base closing amendment

that we will be doing in 2005. They are telling me we are looking

forward to your fighting to make sure our bases are not closed in our

area. And my question to them is, why do you think that this Bush

administration insisted, insisted, after the House and Senate both

voted down and said we should not have a base closure, or BRACC

scenario, during this time of war, why do you think this administration

insisted that we go through this? It is destabling to the families and

the communities during a time of war.

I have heard that someone from the other body indicated that if they

were elected that that is one of the first things they would scrap.

I also want to comment on the 2000 election, which I cannot get past

because the election determined who is in charge, and certainly I do

not think we are headed in the right direction. I am going to submit

for the Record an article that was in The New York Times last week

indicating that Florida could be Florida again. In other words, the

problems that we experienced in the 2000 election have not been

corrected. It is a disservice to the people that we serve that we do

not straighten out the problems with the elections, not just in Florida

but all over this country; and we have not properly funded the program.

Lastly, let me mention the coup d'etat that took place a couple of

weeks ago in Haiti. It is very unfortunate that this Bush

administration has chosen to go in and take out a duly elected

president. Just take him out. Just take him out. The poorest country in

the western hemisphere. We have to make sure that the Haitian people

get the assistance that they need from the super Bush administration,

after going

in and taking out the duly elected president.