Madam Speaker, President Bush has a golden opportunity

to level with the American people tonight about Iraq. The question is:

Will he?

The President stands at a crossroads. His credibility and the

integrity of the entire administration is on the line. The American

people have had enough of administration rhetoric. For a sitting Vice

President to dismiss reality and proclaim the insurgency in its ``last

throes'' grossly understates the threat to U.S. soldiers in Iraq and

seriously undermines any shred of credibility that the administration

has left with the American people. They know that U.S. involvement in

Iraq is going badly. Republican Senator Chuck Hagel summed it up last

week when he said, ``The White House is completely disconnected with

reality . . . The reality is that we are losing in Iraq.''

The American people want the President to deliver a straight story

and a realistic plan, something he has been unwilling to do up to now.

We will see if we hear it tonight.