Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk tonight about three

types of amnesia that I am afraid are infecting the executive branch's

policy, and those three symptoms of amnesia are makings us less safe.

This weekend I went to the VFW Post in Redmond, Washington, where a

group was holding a car wash to raise money to send incidentals, CDs

and telephones and suntan lotion and the like, to our service personnel

in Iraq. The thing that was interesting is the people who were there,

including the wives and sisters and fathers of the people who are

serving in Iraq, and one woman who lost her son in Iraq who came out to

the car wash to help her fallen son's former colleagues in Iraq, and

what was amazing to me, while these people are pulling together, there

is this kind of amnesia developing to forget the loss and casualties we

are suffering in Iraq. It is slipping from page 1 to page 3 to page 12

to outside of our consciousness. Frankly, I think the President could

do a better job of reminding us of the loss we are suffering in Iraq

rather than trying to belittle it or say it is a minimal thing.

I have heard people argue that a thousand people lost in America is

not that many. I just challenge for them to say that if they had been

to the car wash and talked to the mother that I did. One person who did

not have to die in combat is too many.

There was a very startling occurrence that happened

yesterday in this regard. Secretary of State Powell said there was no

link to 9/11 to Saddam Hussein. Yet the Vice President continues in

this effort.