I thank the gentleman from Iowa, and I appreciate his

dealing with this subject. It is important right now, while we are

talking about Mr. Zarqawi and his timely departure, that we consider

why it has taken so long to find him.

Under President Clinton, we began to see the budget cut for our

intelligence services by up to 30 percent. But one of the most damaging

things that happened during that time was that the intelligence

services, under Presidential order, began to refuse to pay or refused

to use the services of anyone who had a criminal background or anyone

who had an association with unsavory elements.

It was an attempt to bring purity into a system that frankly cannot

work on purity. Many times people with information are insiders, and

they are insiders because they are willing to cooperate with the

officials.

So what we did when we eliminated all intelligence sources with any

crimes in their background, we eliminated in Iraq, for instance, all of

the people who had fought with the Ba'athists, either willingly or

unwillingly.

Because we eliminated them, we eliminated any capability to really

get information from them. So we dismantled in the 1990s, we began to

dismantle our overseas operations, especially in North Africa, we said

we do not need information anymore. I do not if the President looked at

the falling of the Berlin Wall and assumed that the American threats

were finished.

But President Clinton severely hindered our capability to find

information from human sources, and instead said we will accomplish all

of our intelligence operations through electronic means.

Well, electronic means do not tell you the heart and soul and plans

of what people want to do. And so 9/11 had many indicators and in the

period leading up to it, but we were not able to capitalize on those,

because we did not know future plans.

The entire operation that nabbed Mr. Zarqawi was, in fact, a very

strong indicator that our intelligence system is beginning to work

again. President Bush reinstated our security, our using of human

intelligence in other countries.

We began to search for information. And because of that, we began to

reestablish intelligence that, in the end, began to tell us where

Zarqawi was. Then we watched him for several days. We saw the places

where he went, and a coordinated attack took out not only Mr. Zarqawi,

we took out several of the people that he was with.

But we hit 17 different sites on the same day. Now we did not damage

or completely take out of all of those sites, we simply hit the sites,

cleared everybody up and then we went in and captured all of the hard

drives, the computers, all of the intelligence.

Now the important thing about what our opponents are saying these

days in the streets of America, that we should not be listening to any

of the conversations of al-Qaeda on the telephone, is that in the

aftermath of those 17 sites being captured, we have access to computer

records, phone numbers, that tell us who the terrorists are talking to

every day.

And we do not have the time, if we want to get timely information, to

go through the laborious process of filing all of the documents,

building the case, taking them in, getting the warrants under the FISA

provisions. Instead, the President has said, we are in a time of war.

The Constitution says that the President can use means to monitor the

enemy in times of war. And, in fact, we are doing that at this point.

We have got good, well-meaning people in America who would dismantle

that program and hinder our capability to even capture or kill more of

the terrorist, but I think that President Bush is on the right track,

and the fact that we cannot not only hit the leader of al-Qaeda, Mr.

Zarqawi, but in addition to that, hit 17 different spots in the same

day and take out other people and capture important hard drives,

computer-generated information, is an exceptional thing.

I have more comments, but I would yield back to the gentleman from

Iowa for him to make his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I would make a short comment, Mr. Speaker,

that we, in essence, have helped the message. Mr. Bin Laden and Mr.

Zarqawi have been telling all of their peers that it is better to die

for your beliefs, that you should go out and die for your beliefs.

Please, go out and through yourself into the enemy, sacrifice your

life. And so Mr. Bin Laden and Mr. Zarqawi, up to this point, have been

unwilling to do that. They have been willing to preach it, but not to

do it. So either unwilling or willingly, Mr. Zarqawi has been given

over to his fate.

So I would just say that we are beginning to see the dismantling of

the leadership. I will tell you that the Civil War failed for the South

because they could never keep enough generals in the field. The Union

had more generals and more depth. And as the Confederacy began to lose

generals, then the decisions that were made became not so sound, the

military maneuvers, the military battlefields were not commanded with

the same professionalism, and that is where the South began to really

have its difficulties.

I think we are going to see al-Qaeda have the same difficulties. I

think we are going to continue until we ultimately tap Mr. Bin Laden,

allow him to find his glory in this great struggle also.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa. I would

remind the body that we had warning signs. Just because Mr. Zarqawi is

no longer part of the conspiracy of al-Qaeda, the war of terrorism,

just because of that, that does not mean this struggle is over.

Again, the war on terror started in 1972 with the Munich Olympics. At

that point, the world negotiators gave the terrorists center stage.

They allowed them to come to the table. That was a mistake that we

continued all of the way up through President Bush, almost 30 years of

giving them credibility instead of trying to dismantle the operation.

So I would remind our viewers that this is not going to be an easy

task, even with this significant loss this week. And I would yield back

to the gentleman from Iowa to close the discussion.