Mr. Speaker, I compliment the gentleman on his 10

opinions that opened the Iraq Watch tonight. I think the gentleman is

right on the money, and I appreciate his summarizing the problems that

we face.

I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Delahunt), the

new Chair of Iraq Watch, for his leadership and his stalwart support

for what we are trying to do here.

The point that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Delahunt) makes

is a very good one. There has been no criticism of the military in any

of the comments that I have heard or read about in the papers. We are

not criticizing the military. That is the one good thing about what is

happening in Iraq, is the performance of our young men and women in

uniform.

We are criticizing the civilian directors of the Defense Department.

We are criticizing the administration, the policymakers, the

politicians.

I think we should criticize not just Mr. Rumsfeld and Mr. Wolfowitz

and Mr. Feith at the Department of Defense, but I would throw in George

Tenet as well at the CIA. I do not think any President has ever

received more bad information in our Nation's history than George Bush

has received from George Tenet and Don Rumsfeld.

The information was wrong about weapons of mass destruction. I am

summarizing what the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Inslee) has already

summarized. They were wrong about weapons of mass destruction. They

were wrong that we could do this on the cheap. We did not send enough

troops in to Iraq to stabilize the country, and General Shinseki was

right and he was run out of the Army for telling the truth, that we

needed several hundred thousand troops, not the 120,000 that Mr.

Rumsfeld thought he could do this with.

If you will recall, in the spring of 2003 Mr. Rumsfeld said by August

of 2003 we would only need 40,000 troops. There would be only 40,000

troops left four or five months after the invasion. Of course, in

August of 2003 there were 120,000 troops. We are up to 135,000 troops

now, and we still have not stabilized Iraq.

Look what that means. You cannot have reconstruction without

security. You cannot have a transfer of government without security.

You certainly cannot have elections without security. And we do not

have security in Iraq. After all this time, we do not have stabilized

conditions in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. If we just focus on

the prison scandal for a minute and see the failures of leadership

there, as the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Delahunt) has been

talking about, there are not enough prison guards assigned to Abu

Ghraib or I am sure to the other prisons that were running as a result

of the Iraq war. There simply are not enough guards assigned. Those

guards are not properly trained. That is abundantly clear. They are not

properly supervised, and there is no accountability up the chain of

command.

So we start off with a disaster waiting to happen. Then what does

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld do? Well, he ignores the Red Cross, who,

apparently, for over a year, has been complaining about conditions and

abusive activities in our prisons. He fails to respond. He does not

read the report in a timely fashion that is finally done by his

subordinate, and he does not tell his President what is at stake. He

even hangs his own President out to dry who is embarrassed by the

disclosure of this information to the media, rather than in the normal

chain of communication between cabinet Secretary and President.

One more failure. I think we ought to stop talking about resignation.

I do not think Donald Rumsfeld should be allowed to resign. He should

be fired for his failures to inform and properly advise the President.

And the reality is, we cannot stay the course in Iraq. We have to

change the course in Iraq. We cannot keep doing what we are doing,

because we are failing, and we cannot achieve our goals of creating a

stable and a peaceful country with a representative form of self-

government. We cannot do that with the level of insecurity and

instability in Iraq today. We have to get more troops in there. There

ought to be international troops, NATO, Arab nations, Western European

nations. They have a bigger stake in a stable Iraq than we do. But

right now, 90 percent of the troops, 90 percent of the money is

American; and it is not working. We have to change our course.