Thank you very much. It is good to be here with

you and my good friend, Congressman Van Hollen, always a pleasure, and

I commend both of you on your expert comments and thought-provoking

comments here today.

Accountability is the issue that we just left trippingly off our

tongues. Accountability. The timing is right now for accountability.

``The buck stops here,'' as Harry Truman said. ``The buck stops here.''

And the buck is stopping within 9 or 10 weeks, for we are right around

the corner from true accountability. That is accountability with our

customers, our clients, the people who put us here. They want some

accountability.

We have all just come back from our August recess. Paramount on their

minds is security. The American people have lost faith with the

direction in which we are headed. Every poll speaks that. I don't care

if it is the Fox poll, the CNN poll, the Washington Post poll, the ABC

poll, every poll that has been taken speaks clearly; 63 percent of the

American people are dissatisfied with the direction this country is

moving in, in Iraq, and half of the people in this country are finally

getting the picture, the ability to separate the war in Iraq from the

war on terror.

That is very fundamental. That is a sea change. That has been a very

serious part of our problem, and it has really been the Achilles' heel

of this administration, of the Bush administration. I think a serious

mistake was made in trying to link the war on terror with the war in

Iraq, and we have had a muddled policy ever since.

It is no wonder then that here we are on the eve of the fifth

anniversary of

9/11. If you would have told me 5 years ago, right after 9/11, Mr.

Schiff, Mr. Van Hollen, that 5 years from now we would not have been

able to catch Osama bin Laden; if you had told me 5 years ago that we

will have expended 2,600 precious lives of our American soldiers in the

so-called war on terror, and yet and still al Qaeda is still running

around stronger than ever before and Osama bin Laden is turning out

more videotapes and CDs than Michael Jackson ever did, 25 at the last

count that he has turned out.

And yet for this President to say that we are winning this, that we

are succeeding, that we are safer? We are not safer, Mr. Schiff, when

the butcher that masterminded that mass murder of our citizens and

citizens of the world on 9/11 is still alive, and yet we know where he

is. And, Mr. Schiff, he is not in Iraq. That was the mistake.

What have we done? We have wasted precious resources, not only just

in the lives of our precious soldiers there, but to the tune of nearly

$3 billion every week. But Osama bin Laden is alive. Al Qaeda is alive.

Terrorist attacks have increased over 250 percent since 9/11.

No, we are not safer than where we were. And, yes, we have an

accountability coming, and the American people are saying one important

thing; they are saying we need a change. We don't need more of the

same.

Yes, the Republicans will throw out to us, if you get up here and

criticize the President here, you are being un-American or you are not

being patriotic or you are talking about ``cutting and running.''

We are talking as Democrats about being courageous, being bold and

being smart. We will win this war on terror, but we will never win the

war on terror as long as Osama bin Laden is running around on the

border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. We will never win this war on

terror if we do not realize we are going to have to develop better

intelligence.

Military might alone won't do it, not in this war. We are not

fighting states or countries. We are fighting non-state actors. We are

fighting rogues. We are fighting folks who, like rats in the night, are

looking for holes to scurry in. Now they are secure in that hole over

there on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. And you tell me how

far we have come, when the government of Pakistan just last week

condescended to them to give the terrorists safe haven in that section

of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

No, no, no, that is not winning this war. That strategy is not right.

There is something wrong with this picture.

They can talk and say all they want to say about Democrats, but the

American people are very delighted and very pleased that Democrats are

finally getting this Congress to stand up and be Congress. That is what

they elected us for, to provide the oversight, to ask the questions.

We control the purse strings. And before we turn loose these purse

strings, we have to ask the questions the American people want to know.

They want to know when are we getting to get and cut off the head of

bin Laden? They want to know when are we going to arrest and solve this

worldwide terror problem?

Who would have thought, 5 years? On this anniversary, as we look, let

us look at the landscape. Let's look at it clearly. Who would have

thought that a terrorist group named Hezbollah would be basically

running the nation of Lebanon? Who would have thought that a terrorist

group, Hamas, would be running the Palestinians over in Palestine? Who

would have thought that

Iran would be on the verge of nuclear weapons? Who would have thought

that North Korea would have eight nuclear weapons as we speak and the

capacity of producing at least six or seven in a year's cycle? Unstable

regimes.

And who would have thought that China would be eating our lunch in

two ways, two essential ways; not only in terms of the free market and

the market economy that they are developing over there at the same time

they have a planned socialist economy, but the fact that they are one

of our largest creditors, and we are one of their largest debtors. We

are borrowing $328 billion from China, a huge debt.

Are we safer? I don't think so. And this administration has some

serious questions that they have got to answer, and the American people

are expecting it.

I hope, Mr. Schiff, that each night that we can come on this floor,

and we are going to take this national security, and we are going to

show the American people that Democrats are stronger on national

security. You know why? Because we are smarter.

We are going to find bin Laden, and we are going to destroy him. We

are going to beef up our resources in intelligence and the State

Department because we know that this war on terror cannot be won

strictly with bullets and bombs. It cannot be, for we are not dealing

with a standing target to bomb. Nations we can. But we need to make

friends with these nations.

We have got the world's best military, but because we are in Iraq,

our military is coming off at the wheels. I am not going to get into

very direct specifics on that; I don't want the enemy to know. This is

going over C-SPAN to the Nation. I don't want our enemies to know just

what our situation is. But you know what it is, and I know what it is.

Without question, we are the superior force. But, by Jove, we have

got to keep it that way. That is the greatest deterrent to these

terrorists, to know that we have that military capacity.

But we won't be able to win the war on military alone. We have got to

beef up the State Department. We have got to make sure we have the

kinds of relationships with these countries that no nation would do

what Pakistan has done. That is unconscionable. That is one of the

great defeats that we have had.

Democrats can change that. No, we don't want the same course. We want

to get smart. We want to fight this war on terror, and we want to win

it. And in order to win it, we have got to be smart.

Well, I think you are absolutely right, and I

think a part of that is those who are at the helm, President Bush and

those in the White House, are good decent people, but they are oil

people. I mean, they think like oil people.

That is it, when our future is not in that way. We have got to have a

clean energy policy. We have got to invest in our own farms and our

agriculture products like corn and soybeans and sugar cane so that we

can develop ethanol as an alternative. We have got to have a robust

economy in this country that is based upon our own self-sufficiency of

oil.

We should be going down to Brazil by the planeloads, learning and

seeing what they have done. If Brazil can take their own automotive

industry, their main means of transportation, and run it 80 percent on

ethanol made from sugar cane, what is keeping us from doing that? Why

must we be so dependent on Middle Eastern oil? It is the way they think

in the White House.

Now, I am telling you, it is not just me here. You have been around

this country; all the polls are saying it. Americans want a difference.

They want a change in direction. Quite honestly, that is why you have

two parties. That is why you have parties here. That is why the

Founding Fathers made it that way.

One party cannot have it all the time, and the American people

deserve a change. I am convinced President Bush has stayed the course.

America says, no, no, we want a new direction.

Well, you can't take a new direction with somebody who says stay the

course, do what the job has done, we are here, this is the way we are

going with the Republican-led Congress. We have got to have some

changes. Democrats are aggressive. Democrats are smart. We have shown

time and time in the history of this country, when this country was in

a world war. This President was in the world, the business talks about

Naziism, he talks about fascism and he talks about all of that about

Hitler.

All that time, who stood up to Hitler? Who was it who said the only

thing we have to fear is fear itself? A Democrat, Franklin Delano

Roosevelt. When the communists were threatening in South Korea and

North Korea, who was there? Harry S. Truman, who said, the buck stops

here.

When we had that missile crisis down in Cuba, when we were on the

throes, right on the edge of what many say meant the end of the world

if that had happened, can you imagine? It was a Democrat with steely

eyes who stood there and looked Khrushchev in the eyes and had the

courage. It was John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a Democrat.

Now, the world can rest assured this Nation will be secure in the

hands of Democrats. We are waiting on the chance to provide the change

and direction. I am just proud of our national security review by

myself and Mr. Israel, who for the past 3 years have provided

leadership on this very issue where we have had great leaders like

Senator Nunn, Senator Sam Nunn, who has provided the way, my friend

from Georgia all the way in; and Sandy Berger, we have had men and

women at the helm of national security that have done a fine job and we

are here to do that job. This is the way for us to go, strong and

smart.

You know, that certainly doesn't sound like

cutting and running to me. It says sticking and staying, but sticking

and staying smart. Nobody is running away from this war on terror. You

cannot run away from it. We are simply talking about putting our

resources where they need to be. We are talking about building a

military and not dragging it down. Let me give you one example of where

I am talking about where we will make choices. Democrats will not make

this mistake. Right now we are facing our military. We are trying to

make choices about air superiority versus ground superiority. It should

not be one versus the other. We have got to have both.

But here we have got right now, in my home district in Atlanta,

Georgia, in the Atlanta metro area, I represent CBO county, Marietta,

which is the Lockheed Martin base where we make the F-22s. Right now

there is debate, the Army, the Air Force wants 318 F-22s. Well, we have

got 75 already moving off the line, but they cut down their request now

to about 125.

If the Air Force says we need 318, we should make 318. That is what

the military says we need in order to maintain the superiority. The F-

22 fights in the air and on the ground. We need that, but here is the

rub. The rub is the Defense Department right now is saying we cannot

even afford the 125.

Why? Because the war in Iraq is making us choose between how we are

going to fit our military. That need not be. We need not allow the war

in Iraq to be a drag on the resources of our military operation. No

wonder you have Iran doing what they are doing. No wonder you have

Syria and North Korea, China, even Russia.

No wonder we can't get around and even talk with Russia and the

Eastern European countries about gathering up those loose nukes. Sam

Nunn brought that to our national security meeting and made it very

clear that quite honestly that is a number one threat to the security

of this country.

So when you look at the entire fix we are in, we are talking about a

reallocation of resources. Democrats are talking about being smart,

taking our resources and using it, stopping the drain on it, making

sure that we don't have soldiers who are going over into Iraq for the

third and fourth tour, or having soldiers, last we had about 30,000

marines called up, their retirement was cut short and having to go back

to Iraq.

No, it is not, and more of the same means this,

Mr. Schiff: this is the latest report on terrorism, what the facts are.

On 9/11, more than 5 years ago, there was an estimated number of al

Qaeda numbers worldwide, and on 9/11/2001 it was 20,000. Now, the

estimated number of al Qaeda numbers worldwide is 50,000. Then on 9/11/

2001, the number of al Qaeda terrorist attacks in the 5 years before 9/

11, three.

The number of al Qaeda attacks in the 5 years since 9/11, 30. The

number of days Osama bin Laden has been at large since U.S. military

operations commenced in Afghanistan, 1,784 days and counting. What do

we have to show for that?

If we look again at the 2,600 American soldiers that we have loss in

this war on terror, good brave soldiers, where we score the more of the

same, no more of the same, no more of this

staying the course on this course. We have got to correct the course

and stay and fight the war on terror, deal with the situation in Iraq,

but do it smartly with the resources we have.