Mr. Speaker, Republicans support the Bush promise to

stay the course in Iraq with an open-ended commitment and no questions

asked. This stay-the-course strategy has strained our military,

compromised our readiness, cost nearly 2,700 American lives and almost

$400 billion, and diverted attention and resources away from the real

war on terror.

Stay the course is not a strategy, and it is not working. Republicans

refuse to face the fact that the reality on the ground is that we are

not winning. We have no end game plan.

Today, we are bogged down in the middle of a civil war, one where 100

people are killed every day. From May 20 through August 11, the average

number of attacks per week against Americans and Iraqis was 792, the

highest number since the war began.

Meanwhile, the war in Iraq is distracting us from the overall global

threat of terror. Over the past 3 years while we have been fighting in

Iraq, the number of worldwide terrorist attacks have grown dramatically

and the Taliban is growing in strength in Afghanistan.

The President has to stop looking and face the facts.