Well, you pointed out something that I just realized.

President Bush, when he ran for office back in 2000, said he would be

the great uniter. Many of us have been disappointed, in fact, that he

has divided the country like no President in modern history. When we

were united after September 11 with us and the whole world, he has now

divided the country.

But I think finally he has united two ununitable, intractable foes,

one, an axis of evil, Iran, who we are trying to defeat, in some way to

prevent them from having nuclear weapons. He has united Iraq and made

Iran a more fundamentalist Islamic government, a more powerful entity

on the world stage, more powerful, as he describes them, axis of evil,

and the President finally fulfilled his destiny of being the great

uniter.

After this conference of Tehran between the axis of evil

and the new government the President has created in Iraq, one of the

leaders described the other leader as their, quote, good friend. I

don't know if it was the President of Iran, the axis of evil describing

the new government created by George Bush in Iraq or vice versa. Do you

know which one it was?

I want to point out something, why this is such a

diabolical development that the President has given to the world and

the United States, and that is it is very simple. We have folks in

harm's way today, we have lost 2,600 of our finest men and women in

Iraq, and it is very clear that we are not going to get those people

out unless the leadership of Iraq and the Shiite factions finally reach

an agreement regarding oil revenues with the Sunnis and the Kurds in

Iraq. This picture is a picture of the friendship of the Shiite-led

fundamentalist Iranian government essentially signing up with the

Shiite-led faction of the government in Iraq, and this President has

refused to drop the hammer on the government of Iraq to tell them that

they have to make a deal about oil revenues right now and refusing to

continue to keep our troops there in harm's way unless they do.

Because it is clear that unless this President makes very clear to

the Shiites and the Sunnis and the Kurds that if they don't reach an

agreement about oil revenue, which they are arguing about today, and

have been arguing about for 3 years, we could be there for 500 years

and not solve the problem. This President has simply allowed them to

shake hands and not put pressure on them, not drop the hammer on them.

That is what he has got to do, and he hasn't done it.

I think when we talk about the wrong country, it has been

the wrong country in two different ways. First, the President has

united Iran, part of the ``axis of evil,'' with Iraq, rather than

uniting America. He got the countries wrong in that regard.

But, more importantly, he got the countries wrong about which country

is a nuclear threat to the United States of America. He invaded Iraq,

when the nuclear threat to the United States of America is Iran. As a

result of Mr. Bush's war, he has made the nuclear threat to the United

States of America, Iran, more powerful by uniting it with Iraq, making

Iran a more powerful figure in the Mideast by taking our eye off the

ball, reducing our ability to build an international consensus to

impose sanctions against Iran, because he invaded the wrong country.

Do you know what? I was so astounded that the Vice President of the

United States made a statement last weekend that made me think there is

some hallucinogen in the water that people are drinking in this

administration when he said, and this is a paraphrase, it is not an

exact quote, even if we knew that the weapons were in Iran, not in

Iraq, that there was no relationship between Saddam Hussein and the

attack on 9/11, that we were going to lose 2,600 troops dead and 15,000

injured, the destruction of our international coalition, even if I knew

that all the things we told Americans were misstatements, were

falsehoods, even with all of those falsehoods, I would have done just

the same thing again.

That attitude, as long as that attitude prevails in this country, as

long as we don't have a Congress to ride herd on those people in the

White House, including the Vice President, our people are going to be

in a dark, dark hole in Iraq. That is why we need a new Congress and a

new government, to get a policy in Iraq, to get our people home.

It is not us asking where Congress has been challenging

these failures by the administration, it is our constituents. I went

for a walk last weekend, and I ran across an old friend whose son is

serving in Iraq today, and he has just been moved to Baghdad because we

have stripped our forces from Al Anbar Province where they are needed

to put them in Baghdad, because we have never had enough troops there

to get the job done, the President has never been willing to do it. The

mother of their child is also serving in Iraq, so they are essentially

raising this 1-year-old.

He asked me this question: Why isn't anyone in Congress insisting

that the President get serious about telling the Iraqi Shiites to

strike a deal about oil with the Sunnis so they can finally form a real

government and our troops can come home? Why isn't there anybody in

Congress asking that question?

I said, Hal, I am happy to ask that question. He said, go do it. Be

vocal about this. Make sure the administration gets their feet held to

the fire, for my son and everybody else serving in Iraq.

So we are doing this tonight. But, frankly, we need a new majority in

this House to do it with hearings. That is what we really need.