Madam Speaker, the Iraq war is doing badly, and the

President would like the American people to think about something else.

With less than 2 months until the mid-term elections, the Republicans

suddenly fear the democracy they claim to be spreading.

A commentary in today's Asia Times sums it up. The article is

entitled,

Let me briefly quote from it:

American soldiers have been fighting and dying in Iraq for years to

prop up the same flawed and failed policy by the President who cannot

win the war, cannot win the peace, and cannot lead the United States

out of harm's way.

The President says stay the course, and Republicans in the Congress

refuse to say or do anything independent of the President. No

oversight, just blind allegiance. The number of U.S. soldiers killed in

Iraq stands at 2,678. Every day in Iraq, on average of two more

soldiers die. The number of U.S. soldiers injured in Iraq recently

passed another grim statistic, 20,000 physical injuries. Every day in

Iraq, 19 U.S. soldiers on average are injured as they try to survive in

the middle of a civil war. And we have not yet begun to count the

number of U.S. psychological casualties, the soldiers with PTSD. That

could be another 20,000 to 30,000 from PTSD alone.

But nothing will change as long as the President has a Republican

Congress rubber-stamping his vision. Even Iraqi leaders and parliament

get it. Just yesterday, Abdel al-Anisi, a member of the largest party

in Maliki's government said,

We are seen as occupiers in Iraq trying to control their oil and

trying to dictate their policies, and our presence provokes more

violence.

The President would like you to believe that terrorism is a new

threat in a new century. The only new thing about the latest threat is

how the President has mismanaged our response. Had Republicans in

Congress provided any Iraq oversight, the truth would have emerged and

we would have changed the course.

But the Republican congressional leaders demand acquiescence by their

members, so the President's flawed war just keeps getting worse.

Throughout history, nations in the East and nations in the West have

faced the threat of terrorism. A new book entitled, ``What Terrorists

Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat,'' by Louise

Richardson, ought to be required reading for Republicans. The author

analyzes history to show us that terrorists want three Rs: revenge,

renown, and reaction. She doesn't stop there. The second half of the

book is called ``The Counter-Terrorists.''

Armed with understanding, not rhetoric, not ideology, the author

provides insights into successfully dealing with the terrorists. If

only our President would listen. If only Republicans in Congress would

demand the President stop the rhetoric and face the reality. But that

can't happen as long as the special interests receive special treatment

by the Republicans.

Another new book, ``Imperial Life in the Emerald City,'' by a

Washington Post reporter, offers a sobering assessment of the extent to

which favors meant more than credentials in Iraq.

I submit for printing in the Record a story published yesterday in

the Christian Science Monitor entitled, ``Mistakes Made by U.S. in

Staffing Iraq? The new book alleges it wasn't what but who you knew

that determined who got the key jobs.''

As the newspaper story recounts, before anyone could go to Iraq, they

were vetted by a Republican political appointee and his staff in the

Pentagon who, quoted here, posed blunt questions to some candidates

about domestic politics: Did you vote for George Bush in 2000? Do you

support the way the President is fighting the war on terror? Two people

who sought jobs with the U.S. occupation said they were even asked

about Rowe v. Wade. The President sent a 24-year-old over there to open

the stock market. That is how the President is running the Iraq war.

The congressional Republicans are doing just as they are ordered.

Over the next 7 weeks, the Republicans will offer the American people

endless rhetoric. But that will only produce endless casualties until

we replace a Republican Congress that merely takes orders. We have to

have a Democratic Congress that is willing to provide oversight on what

this President is doing. Election is about 50 days away, Mr. President.