Mr. Speaker, in August of 2002, 2 months before Congress

voted for the war in Iraq, Dick Armey, then our Republican majority

leader, gave a speech in Des Moines, Iowa. He said

The very popular conservative columnist, Charley Reese wrote, before

the war, that it was ``ludicrous'' to believe Iraq was any kind of

threat to us. Mr. Reese added,

The conservative columnist, Paul Craig Roberts, Assistant Secretary

of the Treasury under President Reagan wrote, before the war, that a

He

considered the Cold War as World War III.

Mr. Roberts added that going to war in Iraq

Jack Kemp wrote before the war,

Mr. Kemp said, based on the evidence that he had seen, there was not

James Webb, Secretary of the Navy, under President Reagan, wrote a

column for The Washington Post, before the war, saying if we invaded,

we would have to occupy Iraq for 30 to 50 years and that American

soldiers would He added,

Many other conservative columnists, such as Doug Bandow, Pat

Buchanan, Joseph Sobran, Steven Chapman, the late Sam Francis, and many

others, wrote columns opposing this war before it started.

Later, William F. Buckley said if he had known in 2002 what he knew

then, in 2004, he would have opposed the war.

Lewis Lapham, writing in Harper's Magazine, before the war, said,

U.S. News and World Report in October of 2002, before the war,

carried a lengthy article entitled ``Why War, Why Now?'' and said,

Fortune Magazine, long before the war, carried an article entitled

``Iraq, We Win. What then?'' The article said a

When they found out I was against the war, the White House had me and

five other members down for a briefing by then National Security

Advisor Condoleezza Rice, George Tenet and John McLaughlin, the two top

people in the CIA.

I asked how much Saddam Hussein's military budget was in comparison

to ours. I was told a little over 2/10 of 1 percent.

I asked if you could get by the traditional conservative positions of

being against huge deficit spending and making the U.S. the policeman

of the world and placing almost all of the burden of enforcing U.N.

resolutions on our people, was there any evidence at all of an eminent

threat?

Mr. Tenet said no, there was not. And he later confirmed this in a

speech at Georgetown University the day after he resigned.

According to Bob Woodward's book on the war, the President received a

briefing from these same CIA officials on December 21, 2\1/2\ months

after the Congressional vote and responded with words to the effect,

Quoting Charley Reese, the conservative columnist again, the war in

Iraq was

Many conservative leaders and columnists were against this war from

the beginning because it went against almost every traditional

conservative position and there was nothing conservative about this

war.

The traditional conservative position was stated many years ago by

Senator Robert Taft who said,