Mr. Speaker, we should have no more talk about

resignations. We should not talk about Donald Rumsfeld resigning his

office. We should not let him resign his office. He ought to be fired.

He ought to be fired, and George Tenet ought to be fired. I do not know

that there has ever been two Cabinet Secretaries in the history of this

Nation that have given their President more bad information, more bad

intelligence, more bad advice than Don Rumsfeld and George Tenet. And

while the President is at it, he ought to clean house at the Pentagon.

He ought to get rid of Paul Wolfowitz and Doug Feith, all of the

architects of this failed policy in Iraq.

It is astonishing to me that the President is so loyal to people who

have given him such bad advice. If you look back on the failures in

Iraq, and I speak as one who voted in favor of the military authority

that the President sought a year and a half ago, I voted ``yes''

because I believed we had to disarm Saddam Hussein of weapons of mass

destruction. I am now convinced that I was misled, that the Congress

was misled, that the people of this country were misled.

And you look back on the failures of intelligence and planning and

advice from George Tenet and Don Rumsfeld and the list is very long.

The weapons of mass destruction have not been found. The intelligence

was bad coming from George Tenet, and the intelligence was hyped by Don

Rumsfeld and the other civilian leadership of the Pentagon. Don

Rumsfeld tried to do this war on the cheap. We did not send enough

troops over there. General Shinseki said we needed several hundred

thousand troops. He was virtually run out of the Army for saying so. He

was right. We have got 135,000 troops in Iraq today, and we have not

secured the country. The country is not secure. Clearly more security

is needed. We tried to do this on the cheap without enough troops,

without enough armor.

The troops left their armor at home, and our soldiers have been

sitting ducks killed by roadside bombs that armored personnel carriers

and tanks would not have to worry about but unprotected Humvees, which

is what our troops have been given, do have to worry about.

There was no plan to deal with the looting. There was no plan to deal

with the violent insurgency that has come up. We were told by Don

Rumsfeld we would be greeted as liberators. Instead, we have become

occupiers. Donald Rumsfeld believed Ahmed Chalabi and the other leaders

of the Iraqi National Congress. Chalabi, one of the great four-flushers

of all time. You ask me what a four-flusher is. I am not sure. It is a

phrase my grandfather used to use. I think it has something to do with

having four cards to a flush and that you cannot trust a guy who is a

four-flusher. Well, that is Ahmed Chalabi. He is a spinner. He has not

given us good advice. But our leadership believed him in the Pentagon

and we have paid a heck of a price because of it. We have no notion of

how long we are going to stay or any notion of how much we must pay.

And now the prison abuse scandal has come. Clearly, the privates and

the sergeants were completely wrong in the steps they took and they

need to be punished, but I do not think the accountability stops with

them. It goes up the chain of command. Because the training was

inadequate; the supervision was inadequate. There has been no

accountability in the chain of command at this point. Secretary

Rumsfeld did not listen to the International Red Cross who apparently

started complaining about this a year ago. He did not listen to the

Secretary of State who began complaining to the Pentagon and to Mr.

Rumsfeld several months ago. The Secretary of Defense did not read the

report that he ordered. And he did not even tell the President. He did

not even tell the President.

We do not need to stay the course in Iraq, Mr. Speaker. We need to

change the course in Iraq. We are not winning. We want to create a

stable and peaceful Iraq with a representative self-government,

hopefully a democracy. There can be no reconstruction without security.

There can be no transfer of authority and government without security.

There can be no elections without security. There can be no democracy

without security. And there is no security in Iraq today. We cannot

stay the course. We must change the course.

We have three choices. We can pull out, declare victory, or say it

does not matter and pull out; and I think that would be a great

mistake. We cannot leave Iraq worse than we found it. We did get rid of

a murderous tyrant, and I am glad we did, but we cannot leave Iraq in

shambles. We can stay the course, but we are not winning. We won the

military victory, but we are not winning the peace. Or we can mobilize

more troops, international troops from NATO and Arab nations

preferably, our troops if necessary, in order to stabilize that country

and achieve our goals.