Mr. Speaker, all of us have tremendous personal respect

for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Anyone who has had experience

like I did, spending an afternoon with a family as I did from

Bremerton, Washington, this weekend, but I want to mention a question

that I have.

Tonight there is someone at large who wants to kill us. This person

has killed us. This person has the capability of killing us. This

person has an

organization dedicated to kill us. We have known this situation since

September 11. Why is it that with the passage of years, that is, until

last week, that the administration finally says they actually are going

to have a 24/7 effort to catch Osama bin Laden? They launched a war and

took their eye off the ball to catch this guy who is at-large, and now,

last week, finally says now we are going to have an all-out effort to

catch Osama bin Laden? Where have they been?

They have been in Iraq, and I have a question I want this

administration to answer. I was asked by the victims families of

September 11 two weeks ago. Why, after September 11, when we knew that

somewhere between 12 and 15 of the hijackers who killed our people were

from Saudi Arabia, did this administration allow an airplane to fly all

across America, when everybody else was grounded, when you could not

fly home from anywhere, why did this administration specifically allow

an airplane, paid for by Saudi Arabia, to fly around this country

picking up potential witnesses who could have helped us catch Osama bin

Laden, including members of the bin Laden family? Why did this

administration allow that?

Mr. Speaker, I think it was something like 15 out of the

19, and yet this administration, I want to know why they flew out these

people two days after September 11 without the full, complete,

comprehensive interrogation of these individuals, including blood

relatives of the guy who we know did this, and several days later they

are playing footsy with the ambassador down at the White House of Saudi

Arabia, an organization that has been very close to the oil and gas

industry? I want to know why they did that. Maybe there is a good

answer. I cannot imagine what it is, but this is one of the questions

that the people who are serving in Iraq and the victims of September 11

want answered.

Zero Iraqis on that plane.

The fact is we should have been cracking down on Saudi

Arabia a long time ago. We should have been cracking down on the

Pakistani fellow that we found was purveying nuclear technology all

over the world and, instead we have been involved in an action in Iraq.

Now, I am very happy that eventually maybe something good will come out

of the action in Iraq, but our people need answers to these questions.