Does he understand the concept of ''soft power,'' the idea that America can and must lead by example, by demonstrating compassion, by promoting our values, by maintaining global goodwill and credibility?

Does he understand that outside his window today at the National Mall, veterans and their families are launching Camp Democracy, a 16-day anti-war demonstration just like the one they held outside the President's Crawford ranch last August?

He must not understand that he has lost the confidence of the people of the United States of America; that in overwhelming numbers they believe he made a mistake in Iraq and want him to reverse course as soon as possible.

It is clear that he understands none of these things, and, as a result, our Nation is paying the price, all of us; all of us who want to live in a country that is admired around the world; all of us who want to be safe from terrorism; all of us who depend on public investment in education and health care, housing and more, investments that won't be possible because of the $1 trillion cost of the Iraq occupation.

But, of course, no one has sacrificed more than young Americans like Christian Williams, Tracy Melvin, Jeremy Long, Colin Wolfe and Michael Deason, who lost their lives. There is nothing more we can do for them other than honor their memories and take care of their families. But we can save hundreds and perhaps thousands of their fellow soldiers from a similar fate if this ruinous policy continues.

Mr. President, bring our troops home.

GOVERNMENT FAILED TO ADDRESS 9/11 PROPERLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, next Monday, 5 days from now, it will be 5 years since we experienced the attack of September 11, 2001. That was one of the most tragic circumstances ever to confront this country. More than 3,000 Americans lost their lives.

But it has developed into an additionally tragic circumstance for our Nation as a whole, because the administration and the Congress, the entire government of our country, the legislative and executive branches, failed to address the issue properly.

The administration called upon the Congress to give it the authority to conduct itself in a way that was entirely inappropriate, and on October 16, the majority of the Members of this Congress voted to give the President that authority. As a result of that, we have now been bogged down as a result of the attack in Iraq and the subsequent occupation for more than 3 years, and the administration and this Congress have no plan for relieving ourselves of that obligation and responsibility.

One of the tragic aspects of that, of course, is the fact that more than 2,600 American servicemen and women have now lost their lives. That number now is approaching the number of Americans who lost their lives as a result of the attack of September 11th by the al Qaeda network.

There are a great many issues that this Congress has failed to address. Let me begin by talking just for a minute or two about the circumstances that existed prior to that attack of September 11, 2001.

The intelligence agencies of our country had informed the administration beginning with the first meeting of the National Security Council of this administration in January of 2001 that the al Qaeda network offered the greatest threat to the safety and security of America and that it was likely that they were going to advance some form of attack against our country.

Now, we know that they had done other things in the past. They organized the initial attack against the World Trade Center in 1993. They organized the attack against the two United States embassies in East Africa. They organized the attack against the USS *Cole*. The President of the United States was informed from the first day this administration came into office and virtually every single day thereafter up to September 11, 2001, that there was a great danger from the al Qaeda network.

On August 6, 2001, the President's daily briefing said that al Qaeda was determined to attack the United States, and there were other instances where the intelligence community told the administration that al Qaeda was determined to attack the United States. Yet nothing was done about it. No action was taken. The President was on a very extended vacation in Crawford, Texas.

One of the things that this Congress has failed to do is to investigate the intelligence that was available prior to the attack of September 11th and why that intelligence was not used appropriately by this administration to prevent the attack of September 11th.

Why has this Congress failed to carry out its obligations and responsibilities under the Constitution to oversee actions of the administration in that regard? The Senate Select Intelligence Committee has conducted an investigation, but they have failed to release the information with regard to the intelligence that the administration had available to it prior to the attack. We need to ask ourselves why that is the case.

And why is it that the House Intelligence Committee has not carried out its obligations and responsibilities to conduct an investigation as to the quality and caliber of the intelligence information available to the administration prior to the attack of September 11th and why that information, which seems to have been so clear and so focused, was not used appropriately? Let's focus our attention on that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TWO WARS—NOT ONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Iraq. A good number of people are confused when the name of that country is mentioned.

Let's be clear. Our country is engaged in two wars. The first is the war against terrorism, which has its genesis in Afghanistan with tentacles reaching throughout the world.

The terrorist group known as al Qaeda, headed by a man named Osama bin Laden, originated in Afghanistan and was protected by the former Afghan Taliban government. After the September 11, 2001, attacks on our country, which were sponsored by bin Laden's al Qaeda, our military forces struck the Taliban government and the al Qaeda strongholds in Afghanistan. Our military forces, along with allied and NATO forces, remain fighting the remnants of al Qaeda and the Taliban with the assistance of the Afghan National Army.

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The attack by our military in the ongoing conflict was a war of necessity. The second war, our attack on Saddam Hussein's Iraq originated because of the alleged threat of weapons of mass destruction against America and our interests. This is a war of choice. After soundly defeating the military in open battle, our occupation of that troubled country came about without proper planning or resources.

Massive looting was allowed. The Iraqi Army was disbanded, without giving former soldiers paychecks and shovels, which caused many to turn against the American occupation. There were insufficient troop numbers to provide a successful military occupation and reconstruction.

Former Sunni Muslim Baathist regime elements formed the basis of a growing insurgency against the occupation forces. They were joined by foreign fighters, mainly al Qaeda, and numerous criminals who were recently released from prison by Saddam Hussein shortly before the conflict started.

In more recent days, a new source of violence has erupted in Iraq, sectarian religious violence with Shia and Sunni elements killing each other. According to a recent Pentagon report, sectarian bloodshed has pushed violence in Iraq to its highest level in more than 2 years. Preventing full-scale civil war is now the most urgent mission of the U.S. troops in that country.

Thus, this is the status of the Iraq war, which is a separate and distinct