

DECEMBER 1, 2003

SCHAKOWSKY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S MISSTATEMENT OF THE DAY -
PRE WAR INTELLIGENCE IN IRAQ

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued today's ["Bush Administration's Misstatement of the Day"](#) on the pre-war intelligence used by the Bush Administration to go to war in Iraq.

□ According to a Washington Post article published on November 29, 2003:

(An Institute for Science and International Security) nongovernmental report, on the Bush administration's controversial claim that Iraq was seeking specialized aluminum tubes to use in a centrifuge to create nuclear weapons material, raises questions about whether senior policymakers ignored technically qualified critics to promote the Iraqi threat.

The Bush administration's strategies of using preemption or preventing countries from obtaining weapons of mass destruction "depend critically on reliable intelligence on highly technical matters," wrote physicist David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security and a consultant to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In the fall of 2002, while polls were showing that the U.S. public and Congress were not convinced of the case for invading Iraq, administration spokesmen including Vice President Cheney and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice were making statements that the tubes were for nuclear weapons.

Such statements, Albright wrote, were made before a fierce debate within the intelligence community over whether Iraq intended to use them for rockets or centrifuges. The issue was decided in October 2002 by a vote in which those intelligence agencies with "no technical [centrifuge] expertise outnumbered those that did," according to Albright.

Schakowsky said, "Bush Administration officials orchestrated a major campaign based on false and misleading information to convince the American people that Iraq posed an imminent threat to our nation's security. □ Those responsible must be held accountable for their lies that are costing American lives and American dollars."