

SEPTEMBER 23, 2003 SCHAKOWSKY REACTS TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH TO THE UN ON IRAQ WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Chief Deputy Whip, issued the following statement in reaction to President Bush's address before the United Nations:

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"President Bush has squandered the surplus of goodwill from the world after 9/11 and his speech today did nothing to gain it back.□ President Bush's speech to the United Nations was the height of arrogance and a low point in U.S. foreign policy.□ The world waited for the truth and a dose of humility from President Bush, but what they received was a lecture from a President who refuses to take responsibility for his failed policies in Iraq.

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"President Bush failed to convince the American people he had a clear plan for Iraq during his speech earlier this month and he certainly did not articulate a clear strategy during his address today before the United Nations.□ To truly shape the future of Iraq, we must internationalize that effort, yet the President made a very weak case of why and how other nations should participate in the rebuilding of Iraq.□ □

"Our President should openly and honestly admit that he was wrong to disregard the views of our allies and for forcing this nation to war under dubious pretenses.□ I believe today's speech by President Bush was a missed opportunity and an embarrassment."