

Report: GOP reps warn Bush on Iraq

by UPI

WASHINGTON - A group of 11 Republican members of Congress have delivered a blunt warning to President George Bush on the handling of the Iraq War.

The delegation -- headed by Reps. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., and Charlie Dent, R-Pa. -- spent more than an hour with Bush Tuesday afternoon at the president's private White House quarters, NBC News reported Wednesday.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also attended the meeting, along with presidential political adviser Karl Rove and White House spokesman Tony Snow.

"My district is prepared for defeat (in Iraq)," NBC quoted one congressman as saying. "We need candor. We need honesty, Mr. President."

The Republican congressmen told Bush war news should no longer come from the president or the White House, but should be delivered by the U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus.

"There is no longer any credibility," one congressman reportedly said.

Bush reportedly told his fellow Republicans: "I don't want to pass this off to another president. I particularly don't want to pass this off to a Democratic president."

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