Mr. Chairman, with this bill, we will now have spent as

much money in Iraq as we did in Vietnam. If you adjust for inflation,

it is now just about the equivalent.

It seems to me that spending almost half a trillion dollars of the

taxpayers' money is indefensible unless we are willing to see to it

that that money is spent as well as we can possibly accomplish that

fact.

I guess it boils down to this: if Members are happy with reading day

after day about stories that are published about waste and fraud and

ripoffs by contractors in Iraq, if they are tired of reading about the

insider deals and the single-source contracts for work to be done in

Iraq, if a Republican-controlled Congress cannot bring itself to

conduct a really vigorous investigation of a Republican administration,

then they ought to vote ``no.''

But if you think that we ought to be doing now exactly as we were

doing in World War II, when Harry Truman conducted the kind of

investigation the gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned, if you think

we ought to replicate that effort, then you vote ``yes.''

I would submit that the Roosevelt administration was not damaged by

the investigations done by the Truman Committee, they were strengthened

by it, because that meant they had more resources available to get the

job done in defeating the Japanese and defeating the Nazis.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Massachusetts for the

leadership that he has shown on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I urge an ``aye'' vote.

Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

I would simply note, given what the gentleman just said, that is

exactly what we have done with Iraq. Every dollar of the Iraq war has

been financed through a supplemental appropriation. That is the way the

administration has been able to hide from the taxpayers the full long-

term cost of this war. That is the way they have been able to avoid

systematic oversight. They put it in a supplemental, and then it is a

must-pass, hurry-up, piece-at-a-time operation. Eventually you get the

whole pie, but you get it in pieces, and the public doesn't know what

the total picture is.

So I would simply say that I was kind of amused by that comment

because the administration is way ahead of all of us. They decided a

long time ago that they are going to supplemental the Congress to

death, and they put every possible dollar they can into supplementals.

They have yet to spend $1 in a regular defense appropriation bill for

Iraq.

So I just find it interesting that one person is expected to live up

to a standard that the administration itself won't live up to.