Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the war in Iraq,

congressional Republicans have stood on the sidelines as the Bush

administration proved time and time again that it could not manage the

war.

When Democrats took control of Congress we vowed things will be

different. Mr. Speaker, we are living up to that promise. In the last

month, House and Senate committees have held 52 hearings on the war in

Iraq. Congress is finally asking the tough questions of this

administration.

This week each of us has an opportunity to speak on the President's

troop surge. Every single Member of this House will have 5 minutes to

speak on the resolution. The House has not debated the issue of war

like this since the first gulf war in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want Congress to take its oversight

responsibility seriously. And this new Democratic Congress is doing

just that.