Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this rule and

the underlying legislation.

We are about to begin 3 days of debate over the Democrats' nonbinding

resolution, 3 days of debate over a resolution that is nothing more

than a political statement against our President.

Considering that last month Democrats rammed six bills through this

House in a mere 100 hours, I would say we have ample time this week to

also debate a Republican alternative to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, last week one of the Democratic

Members in this body repeatedly referred to us as the ``Republic

Party.'' I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that that Member was necessarily

trying to pay us a compliment. But indeed he did, because this is a

Republic, and we speak on behalf of 650,000 constituents.

But the Democrats have taken that away from us, Mr. Speaker. The

Democratic leadership has shown us time and time again their pledge of

an open and inclusive Congress amounts to nothing more than tired

campaign rhetoric. So over and over the next 3 days, you will hear many

Republican opinions and ideas, but you will see no Republican

legislation.

Perhaps the Democratic leadership is afraid that a Republican

alternative, like the bill introduced by a true American war hero, Sam

Johnson of Texas, would force the Members to finally put their money

where their mouths are and vote ``yes'' or ``no'' to cut funding for

the troops. But instead, Mr. Speaker, the Democrats prefer to debate

nonbinding resolutions that criticize the President's plan without

offering any alternative or strategy for victory.

Mr. Speaker, we should be using the next 3 days to debate substantive

legislation, not political attacks. This nonbinding resolution may have

been crafted with the 2008 election in mind, but I implore my

colleagues to look far beyond 2008 to the future of our Nation and this

global war on terror. Don't play politics with the security of the

United States of America. Don't play politics with possibly our last

best chance to secure freedom for the Iraqi people on the greater

stability in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have sometimes accused Republicans in this

Congress of being ``yes men'' for the President. Well, I believe the

Democrats are being ``no men'' for the President, blindly saying no to

any plan he proposes, without considering the merits or what is best

for the security of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely unbelievable that the Democrats are

proposing 3 days of debate on an issue as critically important as Iraq

without any Republican input or alternative. The manner in which this

debate will be carried out is an affront to the American people and to

our troops. I ask my colleagues to join me in opposition to this

shameful rule.