Mr. Speaker, let me just say that from my

understanding, we are a separate but equal branch of government. The

Executive does its thing; we do ours. And part of our responsibility is

to debate, investigate and evaluate what the President says and not

simply rubber-stamp what he says. So we are doing our job and what the

American people elect us to do

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to now yield 5 minutes to the

gentlewoman from Illinois, the chief deputy whip, the Honorable Jan

Schakowsky.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are indeed

looking at this debate. They want to know where their Members stand,

simply whether they support the troops and their position with the

President and his escalation, and we had the opportunity for every

Member to speak out on that. That is what this House is all about. We

are doing our jobs. It is just the first step in many steps

As a result, the American people also, I am sure, will want to hear

the distinguished gentleman from the State of Pennsylvania, the

Honorable Mike Doyle, who is the vice chair of the Telecommunications

and Internet Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I know of no one in this House,

whether you be to the left or to the right, who does not believe in our

troops and our soldiers, who does not respect them and honor them. In

fact, I think that by having every Member have the opportunity to speak

on this

floor to talk about their patriotism is exactly what is supposed to

happen in the people's House.

With that, I am proud to yield 5 1/2 minutes to a man who was one of

the leaders in opposition to giving the President the authority to

unilaterally go into Iraq, a man who is steady and effective on the

Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Texas, the Honorable Lloyd

Doggett