Mr. Speaker, I want to thank and congratulate the

gentlewoman from California, Ms. Waters, and her partner from

California for the great work that they have done here.

Ladies and gentlemen, I call your attention in this discussion

tonight to what happened on Page 1 of the New York Times. And I read

this to you for your consideration:

``Inviting a Battle on Capitol Hill. In making the effort to step up

the American military presence in Iraq, President Bush invites an epic

clash with the Democrats who run Capitol Hill, whose leader promised to

force a vote on his plan. While Congress cannot force a change in the

White House plan, Mr. Bush's initiative shows that he is ignoring the

results of the November elections, rejecting the central thrust of the

bipartisan Iraq Study Group, and flouting some of the advice of his own

generals.

``The move is in essence a calculated gamble that no matter how much

hue and cry his new strategy may provoke, in the end the American

people will give Mr. Bush more time to turn around the war in Iraq.''

Well, ladies and gentlemen, my suggestion is that, after last night's

performance, he is not going to be given more time by the American

people and that, from a popularity rating at an all time low of 26, my

prediction is that he will have fallen even lower as a result of last

night's performance.

So I think that this is quickly turning into the President's war.

There are those on all sides around him, including within the

Republican Party, Members that will not go along any further. We have

run out of steam. We have run out of illogic. We have looked through

the exaggerations. So I conclude my remarks by just letting you hear

about the editorial in the New York Times:

``We have argued that the United States has a moral obligation to

stay in Iraq as long as there is a chance to mitigate the damage that a

quick withdrawal might cause.'' This is the editorial. ``We have called

for an effort to secure Baghdad, but as part of the sort of

comprehensive political solution utterly lacking in Mr. Bush's speech.

This war has reached the point that merely prolonging it could make a

bad ending even worse. Without a real plan to bring it to a close,

there is no point in talking about jobs programs and military offenses.

There is nothing ahead but even greater disaster in Iraq.'' This is the

media talking now.

It is time that the Executive branch recognize that the majority of

the American people, most of the Congress, the media itself are all

telling him that President Bush's private war is not going to go

anywhere, and to deliberately refuse to accept the decision and

determination of the American people on November 7 means that he is now

stepping beyond the democratic process.

Madam leader, Ms. Waters, I thank you so much for yielding.