Mr. Speaker, I thank very much the gentleman from

Washington (Mr. Inslee) for bringing this issue to the floor of the

House. I think it is at the moment one of the most important issues

that this Congress should be dealing with, but is not doing so.

As you pointed out, there is a great deal of dissembling going on

within the context of the Bush Administration. And one of the principal

people responsible for that is Mr. Rove. It is quite clear that he

revealed the identity of Valerie Plame, Central Intelligence Agency

operative, and the wife of Ambassador Wilson, to at least one reporter,

in this particular case a reporter for Time Magazine, and that he did

so in the context of e-mail.

But it is also very likely that he made that revelation not just to

the reporter for Time Magazine, but to others as well. And it may very

well have been Mr. Rove who made that revelation to Robert Novak, who

was the columnist who published her name and made the revelation that

someone working for the intelligence agency in a very sensitive

position now had that name made public, putting that person in danger.

So the question of the motivation here is one that is very important.

It is quite clear that at least on one level, the motivation was to

exact retribution against Ambassador Wilson, who you have pointed out

rightly was sent by the Central Intelligence Agency to Niger to

investigate the question as to whether or not enriched yellow cake

uranium was being transported from Niger into Iraq.

The President of the United States in this room, in an address to a

joint session of the Congress of the United States, and to the American

people, made the assertion that enriched yellow cake uranium was being

imported from Niger into Iraq, and that created the prospect that Iraq

was developing nuclear weapons.

On numerous occasions, the President, the Vice President, the

National Security Advisor, and others in the administration, used the

illustration of the mushroom cloud in reference to Iraq, to create the

impression that Iraq was developing a nuclear weapon.

Ambassador Wilson, in the context of his trip to Niger, made it very

clear that no yellow cake uranium had been transported from Niger to

Iraq. Nevertheless, the administration continued to allege that that is

not the case, and that Iraq was engaged in a program to develop a

nuclear weapon.

So what we see here in the course of this discussion this afternoon

is another example of the dissembling, the misuse of information by

important people within this administration. And from our point of

view, as Members of the House of Representatives, one of the critical

aspects of all of this is the failure of this House to address this

circumstance.

We know that the allegations made by the administration with regard

to the connection between Iraq and the attack of September 11 were

untrue. We know that the allegations concerning the relationship

between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden were not true. We know that

the allegations with regard to weapons of mass destruction, including

the prospects of a nuclear weapon, were untrue.

Why is it that this House of Representatives is not carrying out its

responsibilities under the Constitution to conduct an investigation and

to hold Congressional hearings with regard to this issue?