Mr. Speaker, I want to very briefly take this to another

level. And it is about truth and trust. I, as a former ambassador

representing the United States of America, was trained in the State

Department as to confidentialities and secret missions that were taking

place around this globe. The audacity of someone in the Executive

Branch even making reference to a covert agent violates that

confidentiality and puts us all at risk.

It is not something you play with. It is not something you use for

retaliation. When you out an agent, you are outing all of us.

Our intelligence functions on us having operatives in places where

people are plotting against our Nation. Our defense will be in the fact

that they bring that information to us and we prepare our defenses.

If these people are exposed, they no longer can gather the

information that can save lives and property. So I think this is the

most heinous act. I am not even going to get into the debate whether it

is prosecutable or not. But, any leader in the executive branch ought

to understand that you cannot have people there who will leak this

information. The safety of all of our citizens depends on the

confidentiality.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way that a deputy chief of staff

in the White House to even mention the name of Ambassador Wilson, not

naming his wife would not know, because she is the one that sent him

over there to Niger.

So how did Robert Novak get the information to print her name in the

press? So I do not buy the excuses. I do not think the American people,

knowing the truth, will buy the excuses. What we have all lost is the

faith and the trust in this administration to deal straightforwardly

with the American people, and as the gentleman has so brilliantly

enumerated all the other misinformation activities involving this

administration. We must stop it and we must stop it now because the

reputation of the United States has sunk to its lowest point.