The issue before the American people that relates to Iraq

is the surge--the escalation of the war in Iraq. That is the debate

that should be before this body, and last night that was prevented. An

up-or-down vote on McCain, who is supporting the surge, or a vote in

opposition to the surge, the escalation sponsored by Warner and Levin--

that is the issue before this body today.

This is a diversion. This is a diversion. We finished the Super Bowl.

This is a trick play by the Republicans. The real issue before this

body is surge or no surge, escalation or no escalation. That is the

debate the American people deserve.