Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the minority leader's

attempt to get oversight. She stood here today and asked in a

resolution, which was not voted on by the House, was not allowed to be

discussed by the House, that the Republican leadership conduct

oversight of an executive branch controlled by the same party which is

in contradiction to the established rules of standing committees and

the congressional precedent.

It is time for this House to begin an investigation of the executive

branch.

Why is that? Well, there is a massive propaganda campaign beginning

today, if you look in the Wall Street Journal and some of the other

newspapers, to minimize the lies that led us into war. They are now

saying,

That is what

the defense is going to be.

It is very clear that the office of the Vice President of the United

States has emerged as the source of this national policy. Never mind, I

am not talking about the intelligence on striods that proved that

Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. It is now clear by his own

admission that the Chief of Staff of the Vice President of the United

States was willing to out the CIA agent whose husband had been sent by

the Vice President's office, had been sent out to find out and had come

back with a report that debunked the whole Niger yellow cake forgeries.

Mr. Speaker, the Italian parliament is meeting even at this time on

the issue of how those forgeries occurred. There is nobody interested

around here. You would think it was nothing. But the Italian parliament

is worried about how their secret service got involved in these

forgeries.

But really more worrisome than the forgeries and all of what went on

there is the continuing influence of the Vice President's office to set

policy. I will include in the record an article in the November 2 Slate

magazine called Superiority Complex that is talking about what has gone

on in the Vice President's office. This is another issue, but

connected.

Today we found out in the newspapers that we have secret prisons. We

do not know where they are. Some people speculate they are in Poland,

some say they are in Romania. We know we have Guantanamo. We have bases

in other places. And we are unclear about how those people are to be

treated.

It was so unclear that the draft regulation was drawn up in the

Department of Defense. Some people in the Department of Defense did not

agree with it, so they let the Vice President's office know, and the

next thing we know, they sort of say, why do you not hold up on that,

and it never happened. The draft regulation never came out. It was to

set a clear standard of how detainees should be treated, how prisoners

of war should be treated, or whatever.

The people who did that were Mr. Addington, who is now the Vice

President's Chief of Staff, and Mr. Libby. They set about to veto the

whole idea.

Why is the Vice President's office making these decisions? Where is

the White House? Where is the Oval Office? Where is the President?

Well, he is missing in action.

If you look in the last year and a half on that whole issue, the

President said that these people would be treated humanely and, to the

extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner

consistent with the principles of the Geneva agreement.

He could not just say

He gave weasel-words here, so he really has

been no use at all. Basically, what this White House has done is kept

that whole issue open to debate.

Now, you ask yourself, why do we care about how we treat prisoners?

Very simply, and the article says,

We are putting our own soldiers at risk by allowing this White House

to keep this vague. We need some oversight.

Mr. Speaker, I include the Slate magazine article for the Record.