Madam Speaker,

the United States is engaged in a war

in the name of humanity. The President’s

actions did not follow the Constitution.

They do not follow the War

Powers Resolution. It is an unconstitutional

action on the part of the United

States.

I served on the bench in Texas for

over 20 years trying criminal cases. In

our daily business, we followed the law.

And the law required that you have a

trial. If convicted, the person was sentenced.

I never tried a case that a person

was so bad we just skipped the trial

and we went ahead and sentenced them

and then had the trial later to prove it

was a good idea. We followed the law.

And the same law that required a procedure

in a trial that is in the U.S.

Constitution, the Constitution also

says there is a procedure for going to

war. And the procedure is that Congress,

not the President, instigates

war.

James Madison, a person who wrote

the Constitution, said the Constitution

supposes what the history of all government

demonstrates: that the executive

is the branch of power most interested

in war and most prone to it.

Therefore, with studied care, we have

vested the question of war with the legislature.

That would be us. Congress.

We have not fulfilled our obligation.

The war in Libya violates the Constitution,

the War Powers Act. It is not

in the national security of the United

States. It is said, Well, the French, we

may disrespect the French. Well, I say

to the French: You respect our Constitution,

and our Constitution says

that the declaration and going to war

is the responsibility of Congress, not

any executive.

It has been said that the Constitution

may be inconvenient, but it is meant

to be, Madam Speaker. War is a serious

matter, and Presidents and Congresses

should be inconvenienced on the road

to war.