Mr.

Speaker, I want to send a message to

our allies. And I don’t think we are

pulling the rug out from under them.

Look at these wealthy, populous nations

of Western Europe. I believe it is

a good thing to get rid of Qadhafi, but

does America have to do everything?

People say we’re the indispensable nation.

That’s a terrible burden to impose

on ourselves; we can’t afford it, and it

cannot be done effectively. Let’s get

people who can dispense with us.

My friend, the ranking member of

the Appropriations Committee, says,

look, we have to do this because NATO

can bomb but they can’t suppress.

What a great bunch of allies—they can

bomb unarmed people, but if they

shoot back, they got to come running

to us.

Yes, I want to send a message to

NATO. Qadhafi is a bad guy. If England

and France and Italy and Germany and

Spain and the Netherlands and Scandinavia

can’t together muster the military

force for this weakened, poor nation,

then let’s re-examine the value of

these allies.

In ‘‘The King and I,’’ he says, If the

allies are weak, am I not best alone?

Yes, I want to tell our allies that it’s

time for once for them to step up. This

is not to protect Qadhafi; it’s to say

that America can no longer be asked to

be the one that does everything, everywhere,

every time. Our allies have to

step up.