Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the

President in his policy regarding Iraq.

Resolutions regarding war are not

something we consider without much

thought, and this should be very serious business for this House and each

Member of it. The last few months, there has been

much talk about Iraq being given the

opportunity to respond to weapons inspections. Sometimes this is said as if

it were a new idea. However, when a defiant Saddam Hussein has repeatedly

rejected inspections and threatened inspectors, there is little reason to believe that he will cooperate.

You may have seen the movies in

which a prison is going to be inspected.

The warden replaces the spoiled food

with fresh vegetables and maybe even a

meat entree. If Saddam Hussein allows

inspectors in, it will only be at specific

locations and not the unlimited, surprise inspections that we need in order

to have our questions answered.

The fact that our President would

consider any additional form of inspection is a testimony of his desire to

avoid conflict. Saddam Hussein’s actions in the past show a lack of regard,

both for his own people and for his

neighboring nations. I remember back about 10 years ago

as a young man preparing to practice

law. It was about that time that the

U.S. and our allies spent an enormous

time and effort freeing the Kuwaiti

people and hoped that the Iraqi people

would also be able to free themselves from the dictator.

In World War II, Hitler introduced a

concept of blitzkrieg, a high-speed attack by land and air. Today’s increasingly long-range and accurate rockets,

armed with warheads of mass destruction, makes blitzkrieg look like slow motion.

The President’s top advisers and the

Secretary of Defense, along with other

members of the President’s Cabinet,

have briefed Members of Congress repeatedly and in a timely manner. I

went down to Pennsylvania Avenue to

the White House just last week, and

back on September 19 met with the

Secretary of Defense along with several

other Members of Congress at the Pentagon to discuss and be briefed on the

situation in Iraq. Now, the President needs our support

so that he can act quickly and decisively against the threat of Iraq should

he deem that action necessary.

Again, let me stress, the action that

we take this week is not just another

vote for the United States Congress. It

is, indeed, one of those landmark votes

that will be long remembered and recorded in the history books. The action

that we take this week might just, and

certainly we pray, negate the need to

send our troops into harm’s way.

I would urge all the Members to support our President and vote yes on this resolution.