I thank the gentlewoman

for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support

of the Lee amendment. In effect, the

Lee amendment says that if there are

weapons of mass destruction in Iraq,

we must work to seek and destroy

these weapons with our allies in the

United Nations.

The amendment further indicates

that we will not provide our stamp of

approval for a unilateral, preemptive

strike unless the administration can

verify an imminent threat to our Nation.

Why should we change our national

policy from being defenders of freedom

and democracy to that of first-strike

aggressors?

This amendment does not prevent

the President from performing his constitutional

duties. He is still the commander

in chief of this great Nation.

However, it is our constitutional duty

to declare war. We must not delegate

our authority to declare war to the executive

branch.

Support the Lee amendment.