I thank the

gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, with due respect to the

authority of this amendment and the

preceding speakers, I really believe

that adopting this amendment would

be worse for America than taking no

action at all. Adopting this amendment

would sanction and legitimize the

shameful gamesmanship that Saddam

Hussein has shown for 11 years. Saddam

views diplomacy without force as

his personal game without rules.

We cannot, we dare not ignore his

history.

Remember, the world builds an Oil

for Food program and Saddam Hussein

turns it into a way to rebuild his military

and to amass personal wealth. The

world builds a no-fly zone to protect innocents

from Iraqi aggression. Yet

Iraqi forces have fired on coalition

planes hundreds of times this year

alone.

The world demands and Saddam

agrees to destroy his biological and

chemical weapons. Yet every objective

observer says he still has them and he

is building more.

The world demands and Iraq agrees

to bring in international weapons inspectors,

but when they arrive, they

are told that thousands of buildings are

off limits. They are delayed, they are

hassled until they go home in frustration.

Finally, Saddam declares with a

smile that he does not support terrorism.

Yet every day, including today,

we learn more and more about the

training, the resources, the protection

that Saddam gives al Qaeda and others.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment, with

its ambiguous references to negotiation

and resumption of weapons inspections,

would continue that game. In

fact, it would have this House legitimize

that game.

The gentlewoman from California

speaks of the dangers of war, and she is

right. War is very dangerous. But the

last 11 years have shown that giving

Saddam Hussein diplomatic cover to

build weaponry, terrible weaponry, is

even more dangerous.

There is a middle path: diplomacy

with teeth. It is the underlying resolution

that I support. Let us show that

we have learned our lessons. As many

have said here today and yesterday,

and will say later today, the American

people are watching what we do. So is

the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you,

so is Saddam Hussein. Let us show Saddam

Hussein that the games are over.

They will go on no more.

Let us vote against and reject the

Lee amendment.