Mr. Speaker, give the

United Nations inspectors a chance.

That is what the Lee amendment asks.

What does it do? It sets out the potential

threat posed by Iraq. She says

that there are dangers and that we

must eliminate these weapons of mass

destruction. But it gives the United

Nations inspectors a process to go

through diplomatically. It rejects the

idea, though, of a unilateral, preemptive

first strike in the absence of a

verified imminent threat to the United

States.

What it does not do, it does not limit

the President’s authority if we are in

danger of a verified, imminent threat.

It does not preclude pursuing other

paths such as those proposed by the

gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

SPRATT).

Let us make it clear, the Lee amendment

simply says, let us push for

peace, let us destroy those weapons of

mass destruction if they are there; and

we think they are, but let us give diplomacy

a chance. Let us not be preemptive.

Let us not use first strike.

Let us try to see if, with our power, we

can have peace through power.