Mr. Speaker, I support

the Spratt amendment because I believe

that we should not rush into war

without seeking the support of our allies.

We should not send American

troops into combat before making a

good-faith effort to put U.N. inspectors

back into Iraq under a more forceful

resolution. We should not turn to a policy

of preemptive attack without first

providing a limited time option for

peaceful resolution of the threat.

This amendment would authorize the

use of U.S. forces in support of a new

U.N. resolution mandating the elimination

by force, if necessary, of all

Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. If

the Security Council does not pass

such a resolution, the amendment calls

on the President to then seek authorization

for unilateral military action.

The Spratt amendment demonstrates

our preference for a peaceful solution

and coalition support without ruling

out unilateral military force if it becomes

necessary.

America has long stood behind the

principle of exhausting diplomacy before

resorting to war, and at times like

this, we must lead by example.