Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of the Spratt alternative resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman

SPRATT’s alternative to this resolution

authorizing military force against Iraq.

First of all, I would like to say that there is no

question that Saddam Hussein is evil personified.

He is Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin

rolled into one reprehensible dictator. This

world would no doubt be a better place without

him.

But this record of cruelty does not give a

lawful reason to attack Iraq without proof that

their activities pose an imminent threat to the

security of the United States. So I must ask:

Why must we pass this resolution now? I still

have not received a clear, convincing answer

to that question.

I have asked it, and many other questions

of those who support this resolution, including

the Secretary of State. They have failed to

make an effective case as to why Congress

should authorize a historic shift in policy from

containment and deterrence to that of preemptive

attacks.

As far as I know Saddam Hussein has committed

no new evil acts, since President Bush

was sworn into office almost two years ago.

Why didn’t the President ask for this resolution

at that time? During his campaign, President

Bush himself said that the United States

should not be the ‘‘world’s policeman.’’ Why

the shift in policy? When the President first

started talking about using military force

against Iraq, it was said that Saddam Hussein

was linked with September 11th, but then British

and U.S. intelligence revealed that wasn’t

true. Also, when the President first started

talking about removing Saddam Hussein, he

claimed that he had the authority to do so

under a 1998 resolution. However, now we

are here considering the authorization of military

forces at the President’s request. Furthermore,

the President was prepared to go it

alone, and then he decided to ask for the support

of as many allies as possible, including

the United Nations. These are just some examples

of the mixed messages from the Administration.

The President’s approach to the

Iraq situation has had numerous changes in a

short span of time.

Due to the President’s disjointed approach,

the lack of answers to many questions that

various colleagues and I have, and the fact

that containment of Saddam Hussein has

worked for the past decade, I cannot support

this resolution.

I have tried very hard to support the President

and this resolution because I believe the

President is sincere and truly thinks that military

force is the only way to deal with Saddam

Hussein. Perhaps he is right, but I cannot in

good conscience support military force until

we first seek U.N. weapons inspections and

the support of the international community.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in

supporting Congressman SPRATT’s substitute

resolution.