Mr. Speaker, I

thank the Chairman for yielding me

the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition

to the Spratt substitute. I have

great respect for the gentleman from

South Carolina, but believe that this

resolution is very misguided. It divides,

or bifurcates, American foreign policy

instead of speaking with one voice.

Nothing in the resolution put forth

by the committee, led by the gentleman

from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and

the gentleman from California (Mr.

LANTOS), prevents the very course of

action outlined by the gentleman from

South Carolina, but I fear that if this

resolution offered by the gentleman

from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) were

adopted, it would have the opposite effect

of that intended by the gentleman;

and that is because it sends the message

that the President, in his efforts

to get strong United Nations action

and support from our allies, does not

have the support of our own Congress.

Between the votes on the two resolutions

contemplated by the gentleman

and while the President seeks international

support, we will in effect be a

cacophony of voices rather than speaking

with one voice.

Many Members of Congress have differing

opinions on what the U.N. resolution

should be. It is time to speak to

the U.N. with one voice. Politics must

end at the water’s edge.

In dealing with other Nations and especially

with the United Nations, the

President must have a strong hand. He

must be able to say what he is authorized

to do, if necessary, to push the

U.N. to do the right thing itself. On the

other hand, the Spratt substitute sends

the message to Saddam Hussein that

we are talk without action. He has relied

upon that state of affairs for the

past 12 years.

This resolution is little different

than the 16 U.N. resolutions, all without

consequences. This resolution demands

the truth, but removes the consequences.

This resolution prevents the

President of the United States from

taking action to protect our national

security interests. It ties his hands,

even to do the limited things we are already

doing.

The Congress needs to speak with one

voice. The Congress needs to speak

now, not later, and the Congress needs

to place into the hands of the President

the necessary tools to implement a

unified and effective foreign policy.

I urge my colleagues to reject this

substitute.