Mr. Speaker, to the

occasional charge of ‘‘hand-wringing’’

and ‘‘weakness’’ leveled at the many of

us who are voting today against this

resolution, perhaps the same could be

said of this statement:

But this statement comes from

American patriots, our first President

Bush and his National Security Adviser

General Scowcroft, in explaining why

they rejected the approach some urge

today.

As most Democrats today vote

against launching a ground invasion of

Iraq, we must candidly recognize that

some of the most insightful arguments

supporting our position were advanced

by Republicans and military leaders

like Scowcroft, Schwarzkopf, and

Zinni.

Party affiliations will not be chiseled

on the gravestones of young Americans

who die to win this war, nor on those of

the American families jeopardized by

diverting precious resources from the

real war on terrorism, nor those

harmed by new terrorists provoked by

what too many will view as a new crusade

against Islam.

Why in the face of overwhelming support

do so many of us vote ‘‘no’’ today?

We respond not just to those we represent

but, most of all, because individually

we must answer to the face we

see each day in the mirror. We must

answer to history. We must answer to

our children and our grandchildren.

When more than one of every four

members of this House cast our vote

against this ill-considered resolution,

we vote not against President Bush,

who deserves our support and respect,

but aware of the conflicting advice he

is still receiving we say: listen to the

voices of your better nature. The prudent

remains—first, attempt holding

Iraq accountable through effective,

comprehensive international inspections.