Mr. Speaker, more

than two millennia ago, the world

began a shift from the philosophy of an

eye for an eye. We were taught a new

gospel of compassion of doing unto others

as you would have them do unto

you. It is that teaching, that faith and

compassion that has sustained the

human heart and this Nation.

I believe, as did Washington and Lincoln,

that America has been favored by

divine providence. But what if we lose

our connection to our source by an

abuse of power?

We are at a dangerous moment in

human history when 20 centuries of

moral teachings are about to be turned

upside down. Instead of adherence to

the Golden Rule, we are being moved

toward the rule of liquid gold: do unto

others before they do unto you.

No longer are we justified by our

faith; we are now justified by our fear.

Iraq was not responsible for 9–11, but

some fear it was. There is no proof Iraq

worked with al Qaeda to cause 9–11, but

some fear it did.

It is fear which leads us to war. It is

fear which leads us to believe that we

must kill or be killed, fear which leads

us to attack those who have not attacked

us, fear which leads us to ring

our Nation and the very heavens with

weapons of mass destruction.

The American people need the attention

of their government today. People

who have worked a lifetime are finding

the American dream slipping away.

People who have saved, who have invested

wisely are suffering because of

corruption on Wall Street, the failing

economy, and the declining stock market.

People have lost their homes, they

have lost their jobs, they have lost

their chances for a good education for

their children. The American dream is

slipping away, and all the people hear

from Washington, D.C., is war talk, so

loud as to drown out the voices of the

American people calling for help.

Seventy years ago, Franklin Roosevelt

said, ‘‘We have nothing to fear

but fear itself,’’ calling America to a

domestic agenda, a New Deal for America.

Faith in our country calls us to

that again. Faith in our country calls

us to work with the world community

to create peace through inspection, not

destruction. Faith in our country calls

us to use our talents and abilities to

address the urgent concerns of America

today.

Let us not fear our ability to create

a new, more peaceful world through the

science of human relations. Faith,

America; courage, America; peace,

America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself 31⁄2 minutes.

The joint resolution, H.J. Res. 114,

gives the President the authority to

use all necessary force at his discretion.

This motion to recommit is neutral

on this central point. And I know

there are people on both sides of the

aisle, on both sides of the proposition

before us, who are interested in knowing

that, that that resolution does not

take a position on the underlying bill.

But with power comes responsibility,

and in a democracy the responsibility

is to the people. This motion to recommit

would assign the administration

with the responsibility to inform the

American people on key questions

raised by a use of force in Iraq, questions

that Members on both sides of

this proposition have raised.

The American people want to know

what will use of force in Iraq cost, and

how will it be paid for. With budget

cuts? With more borrowing? With tax

increases? The American people want

to know what financial commitment

the administration is making to address

humanitarian consequences of a

use of force in Iraq. The American people

want to know what impact will the

use of force in Iraq have on the economy

of the United States and on the

important price of oil. The American

people want to know how a use of force

in Iraq will affect efforts to prevent

further terrorist attacks. The American

people want to know these things

because they know that ultimately

they will be required to pay the price.

They are entitled to answers, and the

motion to recommit ensures that they

will get those answers before they get

the bill.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking Democrat

on the Subcommittee on National

Security, Veterans’ Affairs and International

Relations of the Committee

on Government Reform, I have sat in

on several meetings where the Department

of Defense, Inspector General,

and the General Accounting Office

have informed the Congress that 250,000

biological and chemical protective

suits are defective; 250,000 of these

suits are defective, but the Department

of Defense cannot account for them.

This motion before us would help protect

our troops by requiring assurance

that the United States Armed Forces

deployed have been provided with functioning

equipment to protect against

chemical and biological agents in sufficient

levels and that this equipment is

not defective. Mr. Speaker, this becomes

particularly urgent since the

Central Intelligence Agency has just

informed the Congress that if the

United States invades Iraq, Saddam

Hussein can be expected to use whatever

biological or chemical weapons he

may have.

Whatever our position on the war, I

am certain that we want to protect our

troops who would be called upon to put

their lives on the line to protect this

country. This is an example of the information

which the American people

have a right to know.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an important

debate for our Nation. People on

both sides of this proposition as to

whether or not the United States

should pursue action against Iraq are

doing the best they can to represent

our country. All of us love our country;

but our love of country should include

our desire to get answers on behalf of

our constituents, answers on behalf of

those who would be called to serve

overseas. So it is in that spirit that I

ask my colleagues on both sides of the

aisle and both sides of this proposition

to join in support of this motion to recommit

with instructions.