Mr. Speaker, all Members

of Congress agree that Saddam Hussein is a

dangerous and tyrannical man. He is the

enemy of the United States and all other civilized

nations and his ability to wage biological:\CR\FM\A10OC7.068 H10PT1

and chemical warfare must eventually be extinguished.

But this can and must be accomplished

without imperiling the security of our

citizens or the moral integrity that has characterized

the United States as the greatest democracy

in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Congress cannot abdicate its

responsibility in the decision to wage war and

invade another country. This resolution makes

possible a unilateral declaration of war against

Iraq based on the sole determination of the

President. He can do this without exhausting

multi-national efforts and for any reason he

deems appropriate. This is an overly broad

delegation of authority from the legislative

branch to the executive branch which is contrary

to Constitutional authority.

Mr. Speaker, the substitute offered by Congressman

SPRATT, which failed today, would

have told the United Nations, Saddam Hussein

and the entire world that the United

States insists on unrestricted inspections, an

abbreviated and absolute inspection timetable,

strict standards of verification and accountability,

and disarmament by any appropriate

means at the proper time. Under this substitute,

failure to accomplish these goals under

U.N. auspices would have resulted in a vote in

the U.S. Congress on whether to proceed unilaterally.

This approach was the superior,

more reasoned choice . . . both in responsibly

protecting the American people and remaining

faithful to Congress’ Constitutional duties.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that a smart

man wins a war, a wise man avoids a war.

Today Congress did not act wisely.