Mr. Speaker, what is the rush? That question was asked of

me Monday evening following the

President’s speech. It was asked of me

last week and the week before and the

week before. As a matter of fact, it was

first posed to me by a thoughtful questioner

at a League of Women Voters

candidates forum in Cortland, New

York, some 7 weeks ago.

My answer to him then was the same

answer I give to everyone now. There is

no rush. The President is prudent,

measured and firm in dealing with a

decade of defiance, deception and bad

faith on the part of Saddam Hussein,

who has repeatedly ignored U.N. resolutions

and turned his back on agreements

that he himself embraced. There

is widespread agreement with the

President. The time for denying, deceiving

and delay is over.

Iraq has a chemical and biological

weapons capability which can be

launched at a moment’s notice and is

in the process of acquiring a nuclear

capability. From my vantage point as

chairman of the Committee on Science,

I am familiar with the havoc that can

be wreaked with chemical and biological

weapons; and as a senior member of

the Permanent Select Committee on

Intelligence, I am most familiar with

the evidence that Saddam Hussein has

an accelerated program to acquire a

nuclear capability.

The case has been made. The question

is, what do we do about it?

In my view, the President is going

about it in the correct way. He is not

some rogue cowboy from Texas, acting

as the Lone Ranger, but a thoughtful,

international leader, rising to the occasion

with calm and reason and resolve.

The case has indeed been made, and

it is up to us to respond. The President

went to the United Nations and in a

very orderly, methodical way outlined

the evidence to that body and to the

international community.

The President has repeatedly consulted

with the Congress, not just with

a few leaders, but all of us. There have

been meetings at the White House.

Just yesterday, for example, I started

my day at 7:30 at the Pentagon with a

briefing by the Secretary of Defense

and his top people, followed by a return

to Capitol Hill for several hours of

meetings with the Permanent Select

Committee on Intelligence, followed by

a luncheon meeting with a group of us

with Condoleeza Rice, the National Security Adviser.

The Congress is involved. It has been

presented the evidence, and the President

is engaging the American people

with a thoughtful, sober, analytical

presentation. And I have to confess

great disappointment because if my

colleagues turned on the television set

Monday night, on the three national

channels they found their usual programming,

not to be interrupted by

something so minor as the President of

the United States addressing the world

on one of the most serious subjects of the moment.

I think overlooked in that speech to

the American people Monday night was

this fact, and the speech made it abundantly

clear. Approving this resolution

does not mean that immediate action

is imminent or unavoidable. I am comforted

by the fact that the President

has advisers like Colin Powell and Dick

Cheney and Don Rumsfeld and

Condoleeza Rice. They are going about

this in the correct way, and I urge support

for the Commander-in-Chief.