Mr. Speaker, I yield myself

such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the blue sky times of

the past peace have clearly clouded

over, and we have now come to realize

that as Americans that our part of the

world is not sheltered from global

storms either. Our country was hit a

terrible blow on September 11, one that

was delivered by depraved men, not by

Mother Nature, and unlike the forces

of nature, the destructive power of man

can and must be stopped before it

surges and reaches our shores again. It

is time we go straight to the eye and

dismantle the elements from which the

storm of brutal, repressive tyranny and

oppression radiate.

Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden

and their radical ilk are at the epicenter

of terrorist activity in the Middle

East. Nobody doubts that. It is not

debatable. President Bush, Prime Minister

Blair and others have made convincing

cases about the threats the

despotic Iraqi regime poses to world

peace and stability today, today, as

well as tomorrow. The list of offenses

is long, and it has been much discussed.

Briefly, Iraq has not lived up to the

terms of peace it agreed to at the end

of the Gulf War. So we are in a continuation

of the Gulf War. It has illegally

sold oil and fired missiles repeatedly

at U.S. aircraft in no-fly zones. I

am sorry that CNN does not run every

night the aerial combat that goes on in

the no-fly zones. The Iraqis are trying

to kill our troops over there who are

enforcing the sanctions the Iraqi regime

agreed to. The policemen we put

there, with their agreement, they are

trying to take out.

Iraq has expanded its weapons of

mass destruction capabilities against

its pledge not to. It still has deadly

chemical weapons hidden throughout

the country, and it has tried to develop

nuclear devices as well.

It is certain that Iraq has ties to

many Islamic terror groups in the region,

including al Qaeda. Evidence supports

Iraq’s involvement in the first

and probably the second World Trade

Center bombing.

The ultimate goal of an Iraq invasion

is clear. It is the removal of weaponry

and the Saddam Hussein regime. Saddam

Hussein, as we all know, is aggressive,

he is a rogue leader, he ruthlessly

crushes his political dissent. He ignores

the most basic tenets of human dignity

and uses fear and brutality to stay in

power. He has not been truthful. There

is no reason for anyone to believe him.

He is known from our intelligence

sources to be a master of deceit and deception

in word and in deed. He would

not be missed by his friends in that region,

and no one, no one is defending

him in this body that I have heard yet.

Debate now, followed by unlimited

inspection and full, effective enforcement

of the sanctions are the best way

to achieve his removal and reduction of

weapons of mass destruction and the

threat they represent. Now is not the

time to sit back and observe the storm.

As the chairman of the Permanent

Select Committee on Intelligence, I

can attest to the evilness of Saddam

Hussein. There is no doubt. I can attest

to the capabilities of his dreadful arsenal

of weaponry and the inventory that

that danger will grow geometrically

the longer we wait to disable him.

Those are undeniable realities that we

have to live with and deal with.

We know about him. What about us?

What are we going to do about it? That

is what this debate really is, the how

and the when of dealing with something

we have to deal with.

President Bush asked in this resolution

that we give him flexibility and

support to handle this in the most effective

way with the least risk to our

troops, the least risk to further dangers

for the people of this great Nation

and our allies and friends around the world.

We should support our President. I

will support him with my vote; and I

hope others will, too.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of

my time to the distinguished gentleman

from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the

Chairman of the Committee on International

Relations, for the purposes of control.