Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Iraq,

it is time for the United States of

America to state forcefully and without

equivocation: Enough is enough.

Either Saddam Hussein yields to the

resolutions of the United Nations, providing

for completely unrestricted inspection

and disarmament, or the

United States and other nations will

use military force against his government

to enforce his compliance.

This is terribly, terribly serious business,

Mr. Speaker, potentially one of

life and death for those that will be involved

in prosecuting this action.

Therefore, I, like so many others, have

expressed the view that this vote is one

of the most important votes that I will

ever cast in this Chamber on behalf of

the people of North Dakota.

I reached the conclusion that the resolution

authorizing the President to

use force should pass, and I do that

based upon the following undeniable

and uncontroverted facts:

First, Saddam Hussein is a uniquely

evil and threatening leader. His past is

absolutely replete with nonstop belligerence

and aggression, as well as atrocities.

Two, he has been determined to have

developed weapons of mass destruction,

biological and chemical. He continues

to seek nuclear capacity and is believed

to be within mere months of

having that capacity, in the event he

could get his hands on the requisite

materials.

Three, he now continues to produce

weapons of mass destruction, having

effectively completely thwarted the inspection

and disarmament requirements

of the United Nations; and he

has made it increasingly difficult to

detect his production facilities, even as

he continues to add to his arsenals.

Four, he is harboring and has welldeveloped

relationships with terrorists,

including senior al Qaeda operatives.

Five, he certainly has demonstrated

that he is not above using weapons of

mass destruction. Indeed, he has used

them on his own people.

Now, under these terrible circumstances,

I have concluded that

doing nothing is simply not acceptable

for the United States of America. We

need to act, and determining exactly

how to act is the question before this

Chamber.

I believe that we should support the

President as he builds an international

consensus to reinstitute completely

unfettered inspections, or to use force

in the event it is not forthcoming. In

dealing with Saddam Hussein, I believe

our only hope of enlisting the cooperation

of his government is if he knows

for an absolute certainty there will be

terrible consequences if he does not

comply.

Therefore, in looking at the resolutions

before this body, I think we can

only conclude that the President needs

the authorization to act if he is to have

any hope of enlisting the cooperation

from Saddam Hussein. A two-vote alternative

in my view sends a mixed signal:

Go try and enlist his cooperation,

and we will evaluate what to do if you

do not succeed.

The administration has made it very,

very clear, and I have heard the President

express this personally, that the

use of force would be his absolute last

wish. I believe, therefore, we need to

give him the resolution and the authority

from this body that, first, seek disarmament

and under terms that are

unlike any other imposed upon Iraq

any time, anywhere, by any person;

and in the event that is not forthcoming,

there shall be force to insist

on his cooperation, or to replace the regime

and obtain cooperation from a

new government.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, the difficulty

of this decision. But, again, the

facts are clear, and doing nothing is

not acceptable. I urge adoption of the

resolution.