Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin

for yielding me this time and for that

nice introduction.

Mr. Speaker, soon each Member of

Congress will vote on a historic resolution

to authorize the President to use

military force against Saddam Hussein.

This is not a declaration of war, and

war is not inevitable. Saddam Hussein

may yet yield to international pressure

and reveal his weapons of mass destruction

and destroy them, or the

Iraqi people might still install a new regime.

No President wants to send our sons

and daughters into combat, but a

President should be able to take action

he deems necessary to respond to terrorist

threats and protect American

lives. I know that given all the facts,

President Bush will make the right decision.

Saddam Hussein is a dangerous man

with dangerous weapons, weapons of

mass destruction. His regime has

stockpiled large amounts of chemical

and biological weapons and is attempting

to acquire nuclear weapons, has repeatedly

violated United Nations Security

Council resolutions, has repeatedly

fired missiles at U.S. aircraft, has

aided known terrorist organizations,

and has openly praised the attacks of

September 11, 2001, which killed 3,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, hoping that Saddam

Hussein will not use his weapons or

wishing that his threat to world peace

will go away is not a responsible policy

and certainly not a guarantee of success.

Hope is not a strategy. Mr. Speaker,

evil must be confronted and condemned.

Either it will destroy itself or

it must be neutralized. Avoiding the

task only makes the future more dangerous

and difficult. We should always

pray for peace, but if the use of force

becomes necessary, we must pray for victory.