Mr. Speaker, I have always

opposed the wholesale use of our

mighty military power except with a

scalpel. However, I have always assumed

that my country would never be

attacked where we live and that my

constituents and neighbors would

never be innocent victims.

Mr. Speaker, the language before us

is limited only by the slim anchor of

its September 11 reference, but allows

war against any and all prospective

persons and entities. This resolution

shows that the challenges presented by

terrorism as war have already begun

with language before there is any action.

The point is to give the President the

authority to do what he has to do, not

whatever he wants to do. But the truth

is that under our Constitution and existing

law, when the country is attacked,

the President’s power is almost

limitless.

In supporting his constitutional authority

to protect our great country,

Congress must remain vigilant to ensure

that his power is always sufficient

but never unchecked.