Mr. Speaker, in a

strict sense, this resolution is not necessary,

because the Constitution makes

the President commander in chief; and

as such, he has the power to strike

back when our country is struck, as it

was struck on September 11, and the

War Powers Act confirms that power.

Even though the President can retaliate

without this resolution, he is

far stronger with it. This is our way of

saying that we are together in this

cause. We approve the mission. We are

one in our resolve. By this resolution,

we say that unmistakably to the whole

world, friends and foe alike.

On occasions in the past, we have

been aware of invoking the War Powers

Act and becoming implicated in military

actions we were not sure about.

But the world should note that in this

instance we set such concerns aside

and give the President broadly the

power to use all necessary and appropriate

force.

These words have large scope. We do

not know for sure who the enemy is,

where he may be found, or who may be

harboring him. Congress is giving the

President the authority to act before

we have answers to these basic questions

because we cannot be paralyzed.

We need to answer this treacherous attack

upon our people on our soil, and

that is why we grant the President this

broad grant of authority.

We trust the President to use this authority

with care and, above all, to

consult continually with Congress so

that the partnership that exists now

will endure for the long fight that lies

ahead. We do not expect to huddle before

every play, but we do expect a seat

at the table. We do expect to be advised

and heard as we prosecute what is sure

to be a long, hard mission.