Mr. Speaker, I rise

with a great deal of uncertainty and

apprehension.

To the President of the United

States, I will be asked by my constituents

did we give you the power to declare

war? Many in this Congress will

argue that we are not giving you the

power to declare war. Others will argue

that we are giving you the power to do

anything from assassinate an individual,

to declare war on an entire

country.

Mr. President, I am going to vote yes

on this resolution because I believe the

terrorist acts of September 11, 2001

were in fact a declaration of war

against the United States of America.

However, I vote yes with great reservations.

To be honest, Mr. President, I do not

know what this means. The language of

this resolution can be interpreted in

different ways.

Mr. President, you have the awesome

responsibility of leading this Nation

and making the best possible decisions

for the people of this country. Mr.

President, do not misuse this authority.

Mr. President, do not abuse this

awesome power. Mr. President, I plead

with you to use this authority with

great care and great wisdom.

Mr. President, with this power, the

decisions you will make will determine

the future of this Nation and perhaps

the world. May God bless you with restraint

and compassion to make wise

decisions, and may God have mercy on

your soul if you do not understand the

awesome power that you have been afforded

by the Members of Congress who

are placing our trust in you on behalf

of the American people.