Mr. Speaker,

like many others, I waited to hear Secretary

of State Colin Powell. I must

confess that it was interesting to hear,

watch, and to see; but I did not see

anything that is going to cause me to

change my position that there is no

need to go into a preemptive strike and

engage war with Iraq at this moment.

Like many, others I am hoping and

waiting, hoping that we can work out

peacefully what some think is inevitable:

war. War, as General Sherman

said, is absolute hell; and I think if we

can avoid it, we need to do everything

in our power.