Mr. Speaker,

there is probably no issue that this

House will deal with of the gravity of

the one we are facing. Sending this

country to war, putting our young people,

men and women, in harm’s way is

a heavy responsibility. It cannot be

done on the basis of misinformation.

Some of us who serve here served in

the Vietnam era. I dealt with casualties

for 2 years coming back from Vietnam.

The young men and young women

of the Seventh Fleet came to Long

Beach Naval Station, where I was the

chief psychiatrist. I saw what happens

to people in war, so I do not come out

here with an easy heart to say, well,

let us go off and do this and do that. I

think it has to be thought through

very carefully what this country is

doing, because if we put our people on

the line, they have to know what they

are doing.

If we say to the world that we can

make a preemptive strike, we do not

like what that person is doing, and we

are not sure exactly what he is doing,

but we are pretty sure we do not like

what he is doing so we are going to

take him out, when this country moves

to that point, we are moving into a

very dangerous period.

I want to read a quote. It was not

said in this body, it was said on the

other side: ‘‘I believe that history will

record that we have made a great mistake

in subverting and circumventing

the Constitution of the United States.

I believe this resolution to be a historic

mistake. I believe that within the next

century, future generations will look

with dismay and great disappointment

upon a Congress which is now about to

make such a historic mistake.’’

Now, we went to war in Vietnam with

a voice vote in the House of Representatives.

No recorded votes. In the Senate they

had a vote. Two Members spoke

against it and voted against it. One of

them was this speech I just read by

Wayne Morse of Oregon. Another Senator

voted for it but asked a question.

He said, ‘‘I do not want to do this because

I think we are going to wind up

with 500,000 troops on the ground.’’

They went down and asked President

Johnson and President Johnson called

Gaylord Nelson and said, ‘‘Gaylord, for

heaven’s sake you know I am not going

to do anything like that.’’ He lied to

him. He lied to him.

And when people tell me they have

facts, that they know that there are

weapons out there, there are nuclear

weapons, that, oh, the United States is

in grave danger, we knew what Saddam

Hussein was doing with those weapons

when he turned them on the Iranians.

We were encouraging him. We did not

like this bunch over in Iran, Ayatollah

Khomeini and all that bunch. So we

said, Hey, Saddam, go get him and we

will give you some weapons, and we

knew what he was doing.

When this country decides they are

going to take out a leader somewhere,

one ought to look at history. There was

a country called Iran, and the leader

was a guy named Mossadegh. He had

been elected by the people. He was the

Prime Minister elected in Iran. The

United States Government did not like

him because his politics were kind of a

little bit to the wrong direction, whatever

that was. So they decided to take

him out and install a king. They

brought back the Shah of Iran and put

him on the throne. So in 1979 things

erupted there. Somebody said to me,

Well, gee, Jim, we got away with 25

free years. Is that the kind of foreign

policy this country wants to pursue?

Do we want to say we are going to go

to any country and we are going to

take out whatever is there and put in

our guy and then we will use him? The

reason we did not like Mossadegh, the

reason we do not like Saddam Hussein,

it all has to do with oil, who has control

of the oil. Mossadegh was talking

about nationalizing. Saddam did. This

is not an issue for us to do a regime

change, simply on oil. We must be careful.