Mr. Speaker, President

Bush sent the Secretary of State, the

Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff and others to

brief House Members prior to and during

the previous Gulf War. This has not

been done this time.

Most Members of this body know

only what they have read or heard in

news reports. Why this rush to war?

Why all this eagerness to send young

American men and women into harm’s

way? The case has not been made.

I am certainly not defending Saddam

Hussein. I voted for the last Gulf War

and many have forgotten how close

that vote was. But last time Hussein

had moved on another country and was

threatening others. Many nations, including

our own, have weapons of mass

destruction, nuclear and otherwise.

Has there been any overt action or indication

that Hussein is getting ready

to use his? We have not been told.

The American people are not clamoring

for war, Mr. Speaker. War should

be the most reluctant decision we

make, and then only when there is no

other reasonable choice. As ABC’s Forrest

Sawyer asked on Nightline last

night, Are we about to do more harm

than good?