Mr. Speaker, The New

Yorker Magazine has just reported that

the White House planned bombing raids

on Afghanistan and the Sudan without

involving four Members of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff. Even worse, since these

were supposedly terrorist targets, FBI

Director Louis Freeh was also left out.

Worse than that, The New Yorker

said that the White House told Joint

Chiefs Chairman Hugh Shelton about

the raids, but specifically told him not

to brief the other four chiefs of the

military and not to consult with the

Defense Intelligence Agency.

Perhaps worst of all, Attorney General

Janet Reno was ignored when she

questioned whether our intelligence

was good enough to support these

raids, according to this Associated

Press report.

I did hear a Paul Harvey newscast a

couple of days after these raids saying

that our intelligence was bad and that

we had bombed, among other things, a

medicine factory. I know if another nation

bombed a medicine factory here,

we would be extremely angry, and

rightly so.

I do not understand why our intelligence

is continually so weak, when

we spend so many billions of dollars

more than any other nation each and

every year on this.

I am sad to say that I, along with almost

every Member of Congress, supported

these raids when they first occurred.

I, along with almost all of my

colleagues, said that we have to take

the strongest possible reasonable action

against terrorists who are killing

innocent people. I did say at the time

that I was assuming that our intelligence

was good, because I just found

it impossible to believe that we would

rush to war without being very, very

certain that we were targeting the actual

terrorists.

I know that there were many people

who felt that these bombing raids were

done to try to draw attention from the

President’s troubles. However, I did not

believe then that anyone would do anything

so horrible, and this article is

still no proof that that occurred. But

the article does indicate a rush to judgment,

an eagerness to go to war that

should never happen in this country, a

Nation that has already prided itself on

its efforts to promote peace and freedom

around the world.

We should involve ourselves in war

and/or take warlike actions only as a

very last resort, and only if there is

simply no other reasonable choice. We

should conduct bombing raids on others

only with extreme reluctance and

only when forced to do so.

The article in the New Yorker Magazine

raises the most serious questions

possible about these raids, and if this

article is false or inaccurate, then the

administration should immediately refute

it. We have involved ourselves in

recent years in civil wars in Haiti,

Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia, and now I

suppose Kosovo, and we have spent

many, many millions of taxpayers dollars

in the process.

As I have mentioned before, according

to The Washington Post, we had

our troops in Haiti picking up garbage

and settling domestic disputes. I heard

another Member say on this floor that

we had our troops in Bosnia, among

other things, giving rabies shots to

dogs.

The great majority of Americans believe

that the Haitians should pick up

their own garbage and the Bosnians

should give their own rabies shots.

President Kennedy said in 1961 that

we have to realize that with just 6 percent

of the world’s population, we cannot

right every wrong and there cannot

be an American solution to every world

problem. Today we are less than 5 percent

of the world’s population.

We should be very careful about rushing

to war in Kosovo. Jonathan Clarke,

a former member of the British Diplomatic

Service, now with the Cato Institute,

wrote in last Friday’s Los Angeles

Times,

Mr. Clarke continued,

Mr. Speaker, we should never rush

into war, nor should we turn our soldiers

into international social workers.

We need a strong military for national

defense and only for national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Los Angeles

Times article for inclusion in the

RECORD: