Mr. Speaker, yesterday,

we witnessed an Iranian dictator lecture

us on freedom, democracy and justice.

Ironically, in his own country,

this tyrant denies his own people the

basic rights of freedom of speech and

freedom to assemble. Women are denied

rights of inheritance, divorce and

child custody, and youth of their rights

of self-expression and economic creativity.

While he may resent us for being

powerful, he does not realize that the

foundation of our power is rooted in

the freedom of our great people to pursue

happiness, to innovate and to speak

freely. These rights are denied to the

people of Iran, and that is why, even

with the soaring prices of oil, more

than 40 percent of the Iranians are living

below the poverty line.

Today in Iran dissent is brutally repressed,

and terror is the regime’s only

instrument for domestic or foreign policy.

This tyrant accuses the free world

that they are denying the people of

Iran their rights to nuclear energy, yet

he forgets that the Islamic regime is

denying the great people of Iran their

God-given rights to self-respect and

human dignity. He spoke of universal

justice, yet he denies the Holocaust,

and has threatened to wipe Israel off

the map.

This regime wrongfully portrays the

war on terror as a war of civilizations,

yet uses every opportunity to export

its brutal ideology, violently, to the

other nations. We are not at war with

any religion or civilization. We are at

war with terrorism and terrorist interpretations

of any religion. We need to

protect the civilized world from the

threat of Islamic fascism.