Mr. Speaker, I rise today to

express my grave reservations concerning

this administration’s proposed

attack on Iraq. If there were evidence

of an imminent threat against us or an

attack on Iraq’s neighbors, I would not

hesitate to use force. But every successful

American wartime President,

Lincoln, Wilson, Roosevelt, Kennedy,

presented evidence to the Nation and

to the world that war was absolutely

necessary, and thereby led a united Nation

in purpose and in moral certitude.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote a President

who avoided becoming a wartime

President. In averting a war with

France almost 2 centuries ago, John

Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail:

‘‘Great is the guilt of an unnecessary

war.’’

If there is evidence of imminent necessity,

I ask the administration to

present it now. We owe it to ourselves,

to the world, and to posterity.