As the

end of the session begins to revolve and

move toward an end, you begin to hear

a lot of discussions about the end of

the session business or unfinished business.

And I hope as we proceed toward

the first conclusion of the 109th Congress,

we will view the concept of unfinished

business as not only domestic

but international. I ask that this body

and the administration, this Nation,

not have on our clock another Rwanda.

I don’t think our former President

would mind when I make the remarks

that one of the most difficult days and

difficult times of that past administration

was the failure to act expeditiously

on Rwanda. And today we ask

that Sudan not be another Rwanda,

Sudan that is now teetering on the

edge of disaster, human disaster, and

the devastation of thousands upon hundreds

of thousands of human beings.

And what is the reason? The reason

simply is one person, one man, one

human being, one head of state, one

president. The President of Sudan indicates

that if the African Union peacekeepers

were to set foot on the soil of

Sudan, he would consider it an attack

and therefore attack individuals dispatched

by the world community.

Now, the question becomes, what is

the response of this world community?

Is it intimidation, to be intimidated? Is

it false diplomacy, to sit back and

allow this person to brutalize and to, if

you will, reject the hand of friendship

offered by the collective world community?

I ask that we not be intimidated and

oppressed by the President of Sudan

and that we demand that African

Union peacekeepers who have been dispatched

by the United Nations, the

very body that has been sent to bring

the world nations together to solve

problems, do their job. And that requires

sometimes enhanced diplomacy,

not accepting diplomacy, and certainly

a firm hand and firm attitude and firm

action.

None of us are asking to provoke violence,

but violence already exists in

the Sudan. For those of us who have

gone, some of us who went through

Chad because the Sudanese Government

refused to give a number of Members

of Congress the diplomatic papers

necessary, many just simply went.

When I went to Chad and visited with

the refugees there in the camps, Chad

already as a neighboring country is

overwhelmed and being, if you will, undermined

by the hundreds of thousands

of refugees and the lack of support and

resources. I was glad to support an

amendment to the foreign operations

appropriations to ensure that some of

those heavy burdens of Chad would be

provided for.

But you have not and cannot understand

the devastation of violence in

Sudan if you have not sat down on the

ground with the women in a circle as I

have in those refugee camps listening

to women who would not look at me

face to face, who hid their eyes and

their faces, who didn’t want to talk

about the massive rapes over and over

again by those who would intimidate,

rape, murder their men and them and

their children. Women who had to go

out to get the firewood because the

man could not. The men obviously

were not raped, they were brutalized

and murdered, and so the women sacrificed

their bodies by going out to be

raped, because if the men went out

they would be murdered. Is this not a

call to action? Is this not a reason to

tell the President of Sudan to stand

down and step aside?

We have gone into conflict and we

have had rousing and vigorous debates

on lesser items than this. And so to the

President who is now at the United Nations,

it is time to turn these three

days of the general assembly around

issues of severity. There is life or death

matters going on in Sudan. And might

I just say this: just a few weeks ago,

there was some sort of survey that categorized

the Members of Congress and

their response to these issues. Unfortunately,

it was a skewed survey, because

one of the amendments that it scored

was an amendment that this Congress

utilize to make a point by taking

money away from Egypt. Obviously,

that is not the right way to go when

you talk about solving the problem of

Sudan. The way to solve the problem

for Sudan is to put an allotment of dollars

that doesn’t take away from anyone

and enhances both the resources

necessary for bringing those violent

perpetrators out of there and away

from those refugees, and as well supporting

the African Union peacekeepers.