Mr. Speaker, last night

the President gave a well-thought-out

speech about Saddam Hussein and the

dangerous regime he has built in Iraq.

I do not think there is any doubt that

Iraq poses a danger to the world, to the

United States, to the region, to its own

citizens.

But what occurs to me is that in the

past year there have been some on the

other side of the aisle who have repeatedly

asked why the President was not

able to prevent September 11; why did

the FBI and the CIA not focus more on

the threats of hijackings; why did the

FBI and CIA not coordinate better;

could September 11 not have been prevented?

Well, now we have another threat.

Saddam Hussein hates us enough to

kill. He has weapons of mass destruction.

He has shown a willingness to use

those weapons. He thwarts U.N. inspections

while he seeks to develop nuclear

weapons. We have a known threat and

the opportunity to do something about

it.

Mr. Speaker, those who have been

critical of our inability to prevent September

11 have a special opportunity to

see to it that we prevent the next

threat. The next threat is Iraq.