Mr. Speaker, I rise to

urge the Congress to think twice before

thrusting this Nation into a war without

merit, one fraught with danger of

escalating into something no American

will be pleased with.

Thomas Jefferson advised, ‘‘Never

was so much false arithmetic employed

on any subject as that which has been

employed to persuade nations that it is

in their interests to go to war.’’ We

have for months now heard plenty of

false arithmetic and lame excuses on

which we must pursue a preemptive

war of aggression against an impoverished,

third-world nation 6,000 miles

from our shores that does not even possess

a navy or air force, with the pretense

that it must be done for national

security interests.

For some reason, such an attack

makes me feel much less secure while

our country is made more vulnerable.

Congress must consider the fact that

those with military experience advise a

go-slow policy, and those without military

experience are the ones demanding

this war.

We cannot ignore the fact that all

Iraq’s Arab neighbors are opposed to

this attack and our European allies object

as well. If the military and diplomatic

reasons for policy restraint

make no sense, I advise they consider

the $100 billion it will cost and that

will surely compound our serious budgetary

and economic problems we face

here at home. We need no more false

arithmetic on our budget or false reasons

for pursuing this new adventure

into preemptive war and worldwide nation-

building.