Mr.

Speaker, I am a newcomer to Congress.

I have been here only 8 months. I also

have the distinction of being the only

Member who is a member of the National

Guard still drilling. At this time

I have had, of course, my first August

recess.

During the August recess, the issue

that came up the most was the issue

already discussed, and that is the danger

of Iraq. We now have a bloodthirsty

dictator who has access to chemical,

nuclear, and biological weapons; he has

the ability with ballistic missiles to

send them against American allies and

against American troops that are stationed

throughout the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should

put our faith in the President, the intelligence

agencies that we have, the

wonderful military that we have, and

the civilian military officials that we

have before us. We need to understand

there was a vote on September 14, 2001,

right here in Congress, almost unanimously,

to provide for military action

against those who harbor or support

terrorists, and the intent of that was to

stop future terrorist attacks on the

United States.

America has been attacked, and we

are under threat. This is not a speculation

as to the future; it has occurred. It

will occur again if we do not take action

to defend our civilian citizens.