Let me thank Mr.

KUCINICH, and I support his efforts over

the years, but especially today, in allowing

this very sensitive constitutional

question to be debated.

I asked him and almost pleaded that

he allow me to follow my friend DAN

BURTON, because nothing could better

prove to our colleagues and those that

know both of us how nonpartisan this

issue is and should be.

This is not a question, really, of past

Presidents who always thought they

were doing the best for the United

States of America when they put our

men and women in harm’s way. Not

one of them ever thought that they

were doing anything immoral.

This is not a Democratic problem;

it’s not a Republican problem; it’s not

a problem of the President of the

United States, not Nixon, not Kennedy,

not Johnson, certainly not President

Obama, certainly not the Bushes. It’s a

problem of the House of Representatives

and the United States Senate.

This is a congressional problem. We

have not fulfilled our responsibility.

Some people I have heard say, well,

this hasn’t reached a level that it

should be war. Well, ask the men and

women that make the sacrifices and

come home and leave their fallen

friends there whether this was a war.

Ask those mothers and fathers and

children who have lost their loved ones

whether this is war.

It’s easy for us to say that we are not

going to get involved; let the President

have the authority. But in the final

analysis, when we go to the funerals,

these brave men and women may not

come from your districts because they

don’t have to make the sacrifices

somehow in these United States. We

know who has to volunteer, who makes

the sacrifices, and we sit back and

wash our hands and say we didn’t think

that this reached a level that we had to

give approval to the President of the

United States. I am not saying that the

President is right or wrong. I am saying

we are.

And, Mr. KUCINICH, I thank you for

the opportunity, because no longer

should there be a debate as to whether

or not it’s Libya, whether it’s Korea or

wherever it is. We have a constitutional

authority. Thank you for giving

us an opportunity to talk about this as

Members of the United States Congress.