Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise reluctantly to oppose the rule, and I do this

hesitantly, because it is difficult to write fair rules and I generally

support the rules. But today I have to oppose this rule, mainly because

we are going to be debating war, a declaration of war, and a full hour

is not adequate to debate an issue of that magnitude. I know there was

an attempt to provide for a lot of debate today, but, for instance, on

the one issue of declaration of war, only one hour was given; that is

just not enough.

The other reason is that it does preclude a House Resolution coming

up again under an expedited procedure. This is not right. This is

undermining the whole purpose of the War Power Resolution of 1973, and

we should not be doing this.

This is taking more authority away from the Congress and giving more

authority to the President and to the administration and for us not to

have a say. The whole issue of war should be decided here in this

Congress, and we are here today because we have been negligent on

assuming our responsibilities.

I saw this coming, and on February 9 of this year, I introduced a

bill that would have prevented this whole problem by making certain

that our President could not spend one penny on waging war in Kosovo.

That is what we should have done. We have not, and now we are in this

mess.

But we do not need to be once again taking more responsibility from

the Congress and giving it to the President. We have a policy problem,

we do not have a resolution problem. We have a foreign policy that

endorses intervention any time, anyplace, assuming that our Presidents

know when to insert troops around the world. That is our basic problem.

Until we in the Congress take it upon ourselves to assume our

responsibility with the issue of war, this problem will continue.

So I applaud the gentleman from California (Mr. Campbell) for

bringing these resolutions to the floor, but, unfortunately, I cannot

support this rule today as written.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, there have clearly been set two goals among a group of

us. We have been striving to make sure this Congress follows procedure,

that is, if we go to war, that we do it properly. It is pretty

difficult to achieve this, especially when a president is willing to go

to war and then we have to do this as a second thought. I am pleased

that, at least today, we are trying to catch up on this. The second

issue is whether it is wise to go to war.

Certainly, under these circumstances, I think it is very unwise for

the American people to go to war at this time. The Serbs have done

nothing to us, and we should not be over there perpetuating a war.

Our problem has been that we are trying to accommodate at least a

half century of a policy which is interventionism at will by our

presidents. We have become the policemen of the world. As long as we

endorse that policy, we will have a difficulty with the subject we are

dealing with today.

Today we are trying to deal legally with a half a war. A half a war

is something like a touch of pregnancy. You can't have a half a war. If

we do not declare war and if we do not fight a war because it is in our

national interest and for national security reasons, we'll inevitably

will not fight to win the war. That has always been our problem,

whether it was Korea, Vietnam, or even the Persian Gulf war.

To me, it is so important that you fight war for national security

reasons only, you declare a war and you fight to win the war. We are

not about to do that today. We are not going to declare war against

Serbia. Serbia has done nothing to America. They have been close allies

of ours, especially in World War II. We are not going to do that. Are

we going to demand the troops be removed? Probably not.

So what are we going to do? We are going to perpetuate this

confusion. But what we should do is vote down a declaration of war,

vote to get the troops out of Yugoslavia, and vote to stop the bombing.

The sooner we do that, the better. That is in America's interests.