Mr. Speaker, I rise today to object to the part of the

rule that turns off the action-forcing elements of the War Powers Act.

Today, the gentleman from California (Mr. Campbell) is using the War

Powers Act to force the House to debate and vote on two resolutions.

The first is the concurrent resolution to withdraw the troops from

Yugoslavia, and the second is a joint resolution to declare war on

Yugoslavia.

But after today, Mr. Speaker, no other Member will have that right.

If this rule is adopted, no matter whatever else may happen in

Yugoslavia, no matter how much the situation there may change, no other

Member will be able to bring this issue for a vote.

In the Committee on Rules last night, the gentleman from California

(Mr. Campbell) himself complained about this rule and he said, and I

agreed, that ``the War Powers Act is there so that any Member of the

House can request the House to take action against the war.''

Mr. Speaker, this resolution prevents the average Member from

exercising their war powers rights for the remainder of this Congress.

This Congress has just started. The war has just started. A great deal

may happen over the next 20 months, and nothing, nothing should be

taken off the table.

My colleagues might compare this to the rule in 1991 on Somalia. On

that rule, the House turned off the War Powers Act only with respect to

concurrent resolutions of withdrawal and only for a period of 2 weeks.

We turned it off for only a period of 2 weeks. That rule retained

Members' ability to introduce privileged resolutions declaring war, and

it also reinstated the war powers for the second session of that

Congress which was scheduled to start in 2 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, there is no comparison. We did it for 2 weeks, for a

limited number of resolutions. My Republican colleagues today are doing

it for 20 months, 20 months, for all resolutions. This is a very

dangerous situation, to tie Congress's hands in the matter of war, and

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this rule.