Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule today, and I

want to extend my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr.

Campbell) for his forthright and honest War Powers Resolution Act that

he is bringing up.

The purpose of the War Powers Resolution is to ensure that the

collective judgment of both the Congress and the President will apply

to the introduction of United States armed forces into hostilities or

into situations where imminent involvement in the hostilities is

clearly indicated by the circumstances, and to the continued use of

such forces and hostilities or in such circumstances.

What we are talking about today is a rule that would allow us the

opportunity to bring forth the debate and the discussion about foreign

policy and the use of troops in a foreign country. Mr. Speaker, what we

are talking about is the use of ground forces that would be engaged in

war, the debate about the probability and possibility that U.S. lives

would be lost overseas. We intend to utilize this time to discuss not

only our foreign policy, but what we intend to engage in and be

involved in overseas.

I am opposed to us being in Kosovo. I am opposed to the war being

escalated and us not seeking a peaceful resolution. This is why a

debate is so important. Obviously, the other side does not want to have

this debate. Obviously, the President feels like that he does not even

need to fall within the confines of this law. The bottom line is that

what we are discussing is that which democracy brings about, which the

laws of this country have brought about, and I believe that it is

important for us to do this.

Previous Presidents have submitted 72 prior reports on the War Powers

Resolution. President Ford, 4; President Carter, 1; President Reagan,

14; President Bush, 7; and President Clinton, 46 times has asked for

these types of powers. It is time that we openly engage in the debate.