Mr. Speaker, I am deeply distressed by the tragedy

taking place in Yugoslavia. I urgently call on all parties to this

conflict, including the United Nations and the Russians, to seek a

negotiated settlement to this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I do not relish breaking with my President, particularly

when matters of war and peace are being debated. But in my opinion on

this issue, this administration is headed in the wrong direction.

The Clinton administration would have us believe that there are only

two alternatives in this crisis, either do nothing or bomb. That

premise is false. In following it, President Clinton has taken us on

the slippery slope towards war.

Our bombing started in Kosovo and has now thoroughly saturated Serbia

and Kosovo. It triggered a dramatic increase in the refugee crisis and

violence against the Kosovar Albanians. We have killed many innocent

civilians, both Serb and Albanian. In addition, the Yugoslav democracy

movement has been a casualty, as has been the peaceful Albanian Kosovar

resistence to Milosevic's tribal fanaticism.

Another unfortunate casualty in this episode has been U.S. respect

for international law. The administration sidestepped the United

Nations and flouted international law.

Mr. Speaker, my gut check on this issue is personal. I am a mother.

The question I have asked myself is am I willing to sacrifice the life

of my son to follow this administration's policies in Kosovo. It is

very clear that the administration has backed itself into a corner, and

now wants to take all of us there with it.

As for the Rambouillet agreement, I do not hear the administration

even mentioning it anymore. For a peace agreement worth bombing for, it

has had an amazingly short shelf life. So from Rambouillet

implementation to Milosevic's removal to the return of the Kosovars to

Kosovo, the goalposts keep shifting. How can we know if we have won if

we do not know what we are fighting for?

The objective first touted was autonomy for the Kosovars, and now we

find ourselves allied with the KLA. So while our rhetoric remains the

territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, our actions promote a secessionist

movement along ethnic lines in the heart of Europe.

Smart bombs are only smart when they back up smart policy. This is

the wrong policy for too many reasons.