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

time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with several of the

resolutions that we will consider here today, because I believe that

several are too extreme, and others would tie the hands of U.S.

military commanders like General Clark.

These legislative proposals would undermine the flexibility of our

military leaders to ensure the safety and security of American forces

in the Balkans. We can debate whether or not we should be in Kosovo at

all, but the fact remains we are there. We must now listen to our

military leaders and not prohibit them from carrying out their mission

effectively and safely.

In war or conflict, or whatever it is that Members want to call this,

we never want to be in a situation in which we are fighting a limited

war and our enemy is fighting an unlimited war. We do not want our

enemy to know what we will not do or they will exploit that weakness to

their advantage.

If we, by our votes today, tell Milosevic that we will force a long,

protracted process to allow ground troops, then he can exploit this

situation to his benefit and to the detriment of our men and women in

uniform.

As a Vietnam veteran, I remember being in a war in which the military

was not provided the tools that it needed. I remember only too well

being in Vietnam and being exploited by the commentary that was

occurring in this country and sometimes in this body.

For example, when we decided not to mine Haiphong, we allowed the

Soviets to continually supply surface-to-air missiles to the North

Vietnamese, which placed our service personnel in greater danger.

In 1992 in Somalia, Lieutenant General Montgomery, the then theater

commander, requested Bradley Fighting vehicles and AC-130s, but the

Secretary of Defense turned him down. We saw what happened to our

Rangers there when the hands of the military

commanders were tied. In that instance, it was the administration, not

the Congress, affecting the battle, but I simply use this as an example

to simply demonstrate what can happen when we tie the hands of our

military leaders.

We must not allow such a horrible event to happen again.

Please understand my position. I am not here to support the use of

ground troops. I believe that we must continue the air war until our

military commanders tell us otherwise. I am here simply to support the

military to allow them to decide what they need and to provide them

with those resources.