Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Mississippi for

yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I was one of those Democrats in 1991 that crossed party

lines to support President Bush in the Persian Gulf War. In my

estimation, President Bush was right then and President Clinton is

right now. And I wish my friends on the other side of the aisle would

give President Clinton the same flexibility that we wanted to give

President Bush back in 1991.

This bill sends the wrong signal to Milosevic, the absolute wrong

signal. I have met with Milosevic. I know what he is all about. I have

seen him face to face. The man is a liar and a tyrant. And this will

encourage him to hunker down. This will encourage him to hold out. This

will encourage him to think that, somehow or the other, the Congress

will step in and deny the President the right to win this war.

We hear from our friends on the other side of the aisle that the

President, once he moves in, ought to be allowed to win, that our

people should not be fighting these wars with their hands tied behind

their backs. And I agree.

So why would we want to do this? Why would we want to make it

difficult for the President to be the Commander in Chief? Why would we

want to tie the hands of the President? Why would we want to hurt our

men and women in the area? Because that is what this will do.

Instead of authorizing the way we did with President Bush, this is

negative, this places negative restrictions. This is exactly the wrong

signal that we should be sending.

I am co-chair of the Albanian Issues Caucus. I have dealt with Kosovo

for years and years and years. We hope the bombing will work. But if it

does not, in my estimation, all options should remain on the table,

including the option of ground troops. If not, if those options do not

remain on the table, we tell Milosevic just hunker down, wait us out

and he will win, because we are announcing ahead of time what we will

not do. This, in my estimation, aids and abets Milosevic. Ethnic

cleansing should not be allowed. Ethnic cleansing and genocide should

not be allowed on the Continent of Europe or anywhere in the world in

1999.

The previous speaker mentioned that the bombing somehow was

responsible for the genocide. This ethnic cleansing was going on for

the past 10 years by Milosevic and his people. Oh, it was slower. It

was what I call slow ethnic cleansing. But make no mistake about it, my

colleagues, it was going on and would continue to go on.

He has accelerated it now because I said on the floor of the House 3

years ago that Milosevic wanted to drive a million Albanians over the

border and kill half a million Albanians. I am right about the million

Albanians. I hope I am wrong about the half a million. But I think when

we finally get into Kosovo, we are going to see mass graves and tens of

thousands if not hundreds of thousands of people will have been

ethnically cleansed.

I introduced a bill last week with the gentleman from South Carolina

(Mr. Sanford) to arm and train the KLA. The KLA is the only

counterbalance to the Serbs on the ground. In my estimation if we do

not want American troops on the ground for years, we ought to be

strengthening them and drop them antitank weaponry. The only solution

in my estimation long-range for Kosovo will be independence, because it

is clear that ethnic Albanians have no future in Serbia. This is ill-

timed, it undermines the President, and it ought to be rejected.