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

time. I want to make sure that everybody understands what the

legislation says and what the legislation does.

First of all, it basically very simply says that no DOD funds can be

used to send ground forces into battle in Yugoslavia without the

approval of the Congress. It does not interfere with our intelligence

ability to support our air war, it does not interfere with our ability

to rescue downed airmen of our forces or of NATO, it does not restrict

ground forces all around Yugoslavia. It just basically says, ``You come

to the Congress of the United States if you are going to use DOD funds

to send ground forces into Yugoslavia.''

Why did I introduce that legislation? I introduced it primarily

because I do not believe the President can conduct a war in Yugoslavia

without the consent of Congress. Opposite of what Secretary Cohen and

Secretary Albright said in their note, they said H.R. 1569 would

unacceptably restrict the President's ability to carry out his

responsibility as Commander in Chief. I do not believe he can carry

that out with a ground war without the consent of Congress. That is

exactly what this legislation says: ``You come to Congress.''

I think we have to be very, very careful when we talk about

committing ground troops at this particular time. Where are the ground

troops that we are going to commit? If you speak to a college group as

I have the last 10 days to three different colleges, the first things I

mention is the word ``draft.''

Why do I mention the word ``draft''? Where are we going to get the

ground troops? We have 250,000 now spread all over the world. You have

to have that draft. We make that decision, not the President of the

United States.

So we have to become involved. If we do not become involved, then we

are going to see something much worse than what we saw during Vietnam.

Members are now getting, I am sure, all sorts of e-mails and letters

from senior citizens. They are saying, ``You're taking my Social

Security money.'' We are getting e-mails from college students because

they are concerned about being drafted. We are getting e-mails from

parents of teenagers who have this concern.

Congress just has to be involved. The President cannot carry on this

responsibility without our involvement. So we take the time as Congress

to make sure that, first of all, we have the troops, that they are well

prepared, that they have the material, they have the armaments, they

have the equipment, they have the machinery in order to protect them, a

decision we have to make because we are going to be responsible for

their safety.

I was very disappointed, apparently I did not know the gentleman as

well as

I thought I did, who spoke during the rule and made a statement that I

did not know what was in my bill, that the leadership put it before me.

The leadership did not even know I was introducing the legislation and

I do not even know if they support the legislation.

What he asked me was, the last paragraph, and I made it clear to him

that I introduced H.R. 1368. The last paragraph became part of H.R.

1569. So again, I call on everyone to make sure that we, the Congress

of the United States, gets an opportunity to be involved if we are

going to send troops on the ground into Yugoslavia.