I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Goodling amendment. I do so

despite the fact that I have serious differences with the President on

the conduct of this war, specifically the command authority as far as

selecting targets and the fact that he took ground troops off the table

before the engagement began. But I oppose this amendment because it

flies in the face of traditional Republican philosophy.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, certainly for the last 50 years,

the position of the Republican Party has been to support the

constitutional right of the Commander in Chief to deploy ground troops.

That is why the overwhelming majority of Republicans oppose the War

Powers Act. That is why the overwhelming number of Republicans opposed

attempts by the Democrats to require President Bush to seek prior

approval before troops went into Saudi Arabia.

It is also important to note, Mr. Speaker, the original commitment in

Kosovo was made by President Bush on Christmas of 1992, when he said he

would unilaterally send in American troops if Milosevic in any way

moved on Kosovo. It is also significant to note that the Republican

candidate for President in 1996 supports the action in Kosovo, as did

President Reagan's former Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, the powers of the President as Commander in Chief

transcend whoever the President is at the moment. I ask that this House

vote down this amendment to preserve the constitutional powers of the

President as long defined by the Republican Party.