Mr. Speaker, I believe that if and when the President

and our military commanders come to the conclusion that they need to

introduce American ground forces into Kosovo, that they should come to

the Congress and make the case before us. However, I do believe that

the Goodling-Fowler bill, while well-intentioned, is the wrong way to

go about this.

The bill before us prevents American troops in NATO from rescuing

refugees just across the border into Kosovo,

even if the tragedy and the massacre is occurring right before our

soldiers' eyes.

It would prevent the prepositioning of supplies and ammunition in the

event we and NATO need to intervene on the ground in the future, and it

would prevent our military from providing necessary intelligence

assistance to conduct our air campaign. But worst of all, it tells

Slobodan Milosevic that he will have plenty of time to do what he wants

to do and slaughter and mutilate and rape almost 1 million people in

Kosovo, because the United States Congress and my Republican colleagues

have decided they are going to tie the President's hands, even in the

case of an emergency military intervention, should it be necessary; to

require the President to come back to the Congress, convene the

Congress, hold a debate in order to rescue people or to take emergency

steps.

I think that that is wrong, and I urge my colleagues, let us not

decide on the necessity of ground troops until the President and the

military commanders of NATO ask us for them. But let us not prevent the

President and NATO now from using our ground forces, if necessary, only

in the case of an emergency. That would be a wrong message for

Milosevic; that would endanger our military men and women, and it is a

step we should not take. I urge a ``no'' vote on this bill.

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

time.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the conflict in Yugoslavia

requires this body to take the extraordinary step of declaring war

today, for the first time in the last 50 years of American history. To

declare war today could have dangerous consequences that nobody,

regardless of party, wants to have occur. If war is declared, then any

country that has a connection to Serbia becomes a potential enemy of

the United States and could be drawn into the conflict in the Balkans.

We could find ourselves at war technically with Russia or China, who

have a relationship with Serbia, two of the world's most potent nuclear

powers.

We did not declare war when we engaged in the conflict in Korea,

Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Panama, Haiti or Grenada. Why are some

forcing Congress, or trying to force Congress to declare war now? We

have not done so in 50 years, since World War II. Now is not the time

to escalate the conflict. We should not tie our military's hands with

the red tape and other legal obligations that flow from a declaration

of war. We should not engage in an action that might cause this

conflict to spread to other regions of Europe beyond our control.

This measure demands defeat, and I urge my colleagues to vote against

it.