Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that there seems to be a

consensus building along two lines: timing and trust. The gentleman

from Missouri (Mr. Gephardt), the minority leader, took to the

microphone and says that he agrees with the idea that this body, this

Nation, should debate whether or not we send ground troops. It is a

matter of timing. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Hoyer) that just

spoke said that the President has given us his word. That is a matter

of trust. I do not have the confidence he does to trust this President

without having an engagement in this debate now.

I want more rather than less debate on this issue. I want it sooner

rather than later, because I see three big problems for ground troops.

The coalition will not hang together; the political stomach is not

there for a ground war. The dominance in the air that we have

militarily will be lost, and the Russian instability that will come

from a U.S.-led NATO invasion would start the Cold War all over again,

potentially.

If anybody criticizes this bill on drafting, then they have to look

this operation in the face and see if they can find any flaws with it.

This bill is properly drafted. Now is the time to speak. More rather

than less, sooner rather than later, before we get a lot of people

killed for no good reason.