Mr. Speaker, during the past few days I have

asked myself, because I was against the conflict in Kosovo, I asked

myself why, and I kept coming up with the answer that I was upset with

the administration because it did not do the right thing in regards to

the genocide that took place in Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone and the

Sudan. And then I thought again, and I said, and came to the conclusion

that 1, 2, 3 or even 4 wrongs do not equal a right. Therefore, I

changed my opinion and said we should stay the course in Kosovo and

correct our policy in Africa, for genocide is, indeed, genocide

wherever we may find it.

I believe we should follow the lead of the administration and NATO in

preserving humanity, for we cannot sit idly by as thousands of innocent

people are raped, murdered, stripped of their identities and forced

from their homelands like what occurred in Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone

and the Sudan.

We must not allow evil to take over, and ethnic cleansing is indeed

an evil. We should not sit on the fence between right and wrong. We

should be firmly on the side of the fence that is right.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said war can never be a positive or

absolute good, but it could serve as a negative good in the sense of

preventing the growth of an evil force. I believe that Mr. Milosevic is

an evil force that must be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may

consume. I rise to speak out against House Joint Resolution 44 to

declare war on Yugoslavia. The U.S. and our NATO allies do not consider

themselves at war with Yugoslavia or its people. NATO is acting to

deter unlawful violence in Kosovo that endangers the stability of the

Balkans and threatens wider conflict in Europe.

Yesterday, the Committee on International Relations reported this

resolution with a negative recommendation by a unanimous vote. This was

a right vote. Today, I hope my colleagues will follow suit and vote

unanimously against this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion a declaration of war is a very serious

step. Congress has declared war in only five conflicts: the War of

1812; the war with Mexico in 1846; the war with Spain in 1898; and the

first and Second World Wars. In the 20th century, without exception,

presidential requests for a formal declaration of war by Congress have

been on findings by the President that U.S. territory or sovereign

rights had been attacked or threatened by foreign nations.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.