Mr. Speaker, I am a hawk. I believe in a military so

strong that we never have to use it. When we use our military might, it

should be with clear objectives after considering our national

interests and the limits of our influence.

Mr. Speaker, imagine Serbia before we started bombing. The threat of

ethnic cleansing clearly existed. About 2,000 innocent people have been

killed, and more ominously, 40,000, a manned force, has been built up

in Kosovo. Imagine again the White House seeing this threat, recalling

the glory of the 1-day wars in Grenada and Panama and, without

considering the ramifications, decided to go to war against Yugoslavia.

But Mr. Milosevic does not play by our rules. He does not turn on his

antiaircraft radar so that we can detect it and destroy it. He uses the

bombings as a cover to really do ethnic cleansing and to suppress local

domestic opposition.

The war drags on. The President and his advisers plead for patience,

all the while hoping a cruel, cold winter without electricity and fuel

oil will force guilty and innocent Serbs to their knees.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this.

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strong that we never have to use it. When we use our military might, it

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Mr. Speaker, imagine Serbia before we started bombing. The threat of

ethnic cleansing clearly existed. About 2,000 innocent people had been

killed and, more ominously, a 40,000-man force had been built up in

Kosovo. Again, imagine the White House, seeing this threat, recalling

the glory of the one-day wars in Granada and Panama, and without

considering the ramifications, decides to wage war against Yugoslavia.

In the process, they demonize a man, Mr. Milosevic, who likely

deserves the characterization, to give a face to the American people.

But, Milosevic doesn't play by our rules. He doesn't turn on his anti-

aircraft radar so we can detect and destroy it; He uses the bombing as

cover to really carry out ethnic cleansing and suppress his domestic

opposition.

The war drags on. The President and his advisors plead for patience

all the while hoping that a cruel winter, without electricity and fuel-

oil, will force guilty and innocent Serbians to their knees. And we

continue to deplete what remains of our military capability.

We see the difficulty of integrating our moral sensibilities, the

relations between nations, the use of military force and politics. The

argument is made that our failure to support this sentimental adventure

would undermine NATO and U.S. credibility. That is: Our enemies, petty

dictators, and terrorists, will see our weakness and be tempted to

exploit it. We have already made our weakness clear with indecisive

leadership. Our enemies now see the limits of our strength which we

have unwisely used. Their intelligence services have evaluated our

actions. They will weigh their options. We must deter them from

wrongful action by showing the strength our Constitutional system.

This body should constrain the fatuous thinking and unconsidered

actions by the Executive Branch, requiring the President to unleash the

dogs of war only in extremity and without artificial political

constraints. When we make war it should be quick, efficient, brutal,

and to be avoided at all costs by the Milosevics of this world. This

still leaves the President with wide latitude as he deals with new

threats. In fact, eliminating this drain on our resources, will

dramatically strengthen our ability to face our enemies.