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

time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution that is on the

floor before us to declare the United States at war with the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia. In doing so, I want to make three points.

First of all, this is deadly serious business that we are talking

about. This is not an academic discussion about when war should be

declared, and what Congress's role is. As one who was a party to the

suit that was sent to the Supreme Court under the leadership of Ron

Dellums, I firmly believe in Congress's prerogative to declare war. So

on that, the gentleman from California (Mr. Campbell) and I agree. But

on the timing of this resolution and the substance of it I disagree.

I think that there is a tremendous need for us to do something to

stop what is happening in the former Yugoslavia. I was there myself

last week. I held those babies in my arms. I spoke to 95-year-old women

who had walked across the woods and the mountains to get to the camps.

We do not need any reiteration of all of the suffering, and we all

stipulate that we all want to end the suffering there. So this vote is

not about how serious we are about ending the suffering.

The other point I want to make is that the United States is the

greatest democracy in the world. People look to us as they aspire to be

stronger democracies, especially the emerging democracies throughout

the world. When they see us play games with something as serious as the

declaration of war, it sends a very strange message to them.

Now, I know playing games is not the intent of the gentleman, but

that is what the appearance of this is. Again, this is not an academic

discussion. It is a debate about as serious as it gets in this body.

And we have to be very clear about what our goals are. We have to be

very clear about the timing of our actions. And we have to be very

clear about what it means to other countries when they see us engage in

a debate at a time when the prospect for war, sending ground troops, is

not a lively one.

When I was in the Balkan region last week, and at the end of last

week, talking to the representatives of NATO who were here for the 50th

anniversary, there was no will for sending in ground troops. So there

is no urgency to this resolution today. The timing is very bad. The

lesson that we send to other democracies is very poor.

I urge my colleagues, for the sake of the seriousness of the war and

the example that we set as a democracy, to vote ``no'' on the Campbell

resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time

to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution before us

this evening, and in doing so, yes, I want to stipulate to the work of

the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Scarborough) for human rights in China,

and let us say that everybody in this room cannot tolerate the

atrocities, the brutality that Milosevic has exacted upon the people of

Kosovo.

Let us not have a fight about anyone's sincerity on the issue. But in

supporting this resolution, I want to say what it is not. This

resolution is not a declaration of war. It is not a blank check for the

President. It does not authorize the use of ground troops.

In fact, I do not support ground troops in Yugoslavia. It is

interesting though to hear those who have criticized President Clinton

for taking ground troops off the table as an option now say that they

do not support this because it could lead to the authorization of

ground troops. It is interesting to hear the same people who want to

double the appropriation from $6 billion to $12 billion and those are

on the majority side of the aisle say they do not want to support the

military action that that funding is being appropriated for.

So how can we have it both ways? We criticize the President for no

ground troops, but we do not want to support this resolution because it

could lead to ground troops. We do not want to support this resolution

because it supports the President's policy on the flights and the

strikes, and yet we want to double the amount of money that is there.

It reminds me of Yogi Berra who said of a restaurant, ``I don't like

the food in that restaurant, and, besides, they don't give you

enough.''

Mr. Speaker, let us sound a resounding vote of yes on this

resolution, so Milosevic can hear it, so our flyers in the area can

hear it, and for the children who are displaced in the region.