Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud the gentleman from

California (Mr. Campbell) for having the courage to stand up in a very

tumultuous time and risk I think some very, very nasty accusations

about playing games and trying to create this academic discussion in

the face of a very, very tumultuous time.

I congratulate him, because he understands that our duty as

Congressmen of the United States of America is to uphold the law of the

land and the law of the land, as passed in 1973, under the War Powers

Act requires this kind of action.

Many of us believe this very strongly. It is not just an academic

discussion. It is the law of the land. And we take that very seriously.

I opposed this mission from the get-go for three very important

reasons. Number one, I believed that there were no national security

interests at risk, there was no clear objective, and finally, there was

no clearly delineated exit strategy. While I do believe that the

intentions are good, to stop the ethnic cleansing or to try to stop the

ethnic cleansing, to try to stop war crimes from occurring in that

region of the world, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

When the President stood up the day before the bombing campaign

began, he said one of the goals was to stop Milosevic's ability to

prosecute atrocities against the ethnic Albanians, and another goal was

that every ethnic Albanian be allowed to return to their home. What we

have seen since the bombing began painfully shows us that the

objectives have not been met. In fact they have been exacerbated. While

there were 1.6 million ethnic Albanians in Kosovo before the bombing,

now there are somewhere between 500,000 and 700,000. Anywhere from

100,000 to 500,000 are missing and may be dead. We have not achieved

these goals by any stretch of the imagination.

I have to look at this from a father's perspective. I have a son who

is 17. If I am not comfortable sending my son over there with such an

ill-defined mission, how could I be comfortable sending other sons and

other daughters of my constituents into harm's way?