Mr. Speaker, today I voted for the bipartisan Senate-

approved resolution authorizing President Clinton to continue military

air operations and missile strikes against Yugoslavia. I supported this

resolution because it shows strong support for the troops while

endorsing the NATO action as the best available way to convince

President Milosevic that his campaign of ethnic cleansing is

unacceptable.

We in Congress must take care to be supportive and not limit our

future military options in Kosovo, especially given that the situation

may change faster than Congress can react. For that reason, I opposed

the Goodling-Fowler resolution as it would have required Congressional

authorization before using ground troops. Even though the Goodling-

Fowler resolution will never find its way into law, the act of approval

by the House sends all the wrong signals about our commitment to NATO's

actions. We cannot afford to tie NATO's hands or broadcast our military

intentions--especially at this important juncture in the conflict.

I also opposed both proposals by Representative Campbell, one

declaring war on Yugoslavia and the other demanding the removal of our

armed forces from their positions near Yugoslavia. I believe both

resolutions were extreme and not helpful in advancing NATO's efforts to

restore peace to the region, in returning the Kosovars to their

homeland, or in reducing or eliminating Milosevic's ability to threaten

his neighbors or terrorize minorities inside Yugoslavia.

However, I feel clarifying Congress' role in foreign conflicts under

the War Powers Act is one worth considering at an appropriate time. We

in Congress have continued to neglect what Congress' exact role should

be in these situations. It is unfortunate that we seem to only visit

this issue in the middle of conflicts, when such debate is confusing at

best, and often inappropriate. I am hopeful we can schedule a full

debate on this issue at a time certain before the end of this Congress.