I have the War Powers Act right here, and the

President has not complied with it. It says, ‘‘The President in every

possible instance shall consult with Congress before introducing

United States armed forces into hostilities.’’

If you read this thing, you know he violated the War Powers Act.

And today, I was watching television with—a new conference with

the British Prime Minister and the President, and the President indicated

we—he’s talking about Libya, he keeps saying, ‘‘We are all

together,’’ and ‘‘We are going to continue to do this. We are involved

in this conflict.’’

He has received no authorization whatsoever from the Congress

of the United States, and it’s in violation of the War Powers Act

and the Constitution.

Why are we not in the Ivory Coast? Thousands of people have

been killed or are being killed there. Why are we not in Syria? You

know, you could pick all kinds of places, as Mr. Poe said, around

the world where we could get involved if we wanted to for humanity

purposes, humane purposes. I mean, why don’t we just get involved

everywhere?

The President is not a king, and he shouldn’t act like a king. The

legislative branch of the Government of the United States should

be informed and involved in any decision that involves military action.

And we were ignored. We should not be ignored, and I think

that we ought to pull in the purse strings, cut off the purse strings

as quickly as possible legislatively, and stop this thing, and leave

it up to those who want to fight a war over there.

I think one thing that needs to be clarified is that

an attack on NATO, a member state, has the—a NATO member

state has the right to respond to an attack, and the treaty obligates

the other members to support the attacked member. So, under the

treaty we have right now, NATO, attack on one is, in effect, attack

on all. And we would respond.

Yes, well, I have no problem with that. But the

point is, the President would have the ability immediately, if necessary,

to respond and then get to the Congress as quickly as possible.

I’m a cosponsor of your bill, and that’s one of the

questions I have. Maybe you and I can talk and get some clarifying

language that we could put into it in the markup.

The other thing that concerns me is, it says in Section 3 of the

War Powers Act, it says, ‘‘The President in every possible instance

shall consult with Congress before introducing U.S. armed forces

into hostilities.’’

Now, in Libya it was not something that had to be done like that.

It was something that France, England, and the United States discussed,

NATO was not involved at that point. And the President

had every—had completely enough time to come to the Congress

and discuss this. And Section 3 of the War Powers Act is very

clear, and he did not comply with that.

Now, the question arises what about when we’re out of session?

If it’s important enough for us to commit troops or our resources

to a conflict, all the President has to do is contact the Speaker of

the House, the Majority Leader of the Senate and say I need to get

these guys back here right away. And within 24 or 48 hours, we

could be back here to discuss in total the whole issue.

So, I don’t think that the President had the authority to go into

Libya, and when I watched the remarks that he made today with

the Prime Minister of England, it sounded like, to me, that he had

made a decision that we were all in this together, we were committed

to this war against Omar Ghadafi, and we would do what

was necessary with American resources to make sure he was driven

from power.

The President, in my opinion, according to the War Powers Act

and the Constitution, does not have that authority. And yet, he is

saying on international television right now, at least I think everybody

that was watching would interpret, that we are, along with

France, and England, and our NATO allies involved in a conflict

to destroy the Omar Ghadafi regime.

So, I think that’s just wrong, and I support your efforts. I really

congratulate you, Representative Rooney and Representative Gibson,

for working on this. It’s extremely important, and anything I

can do to help you in your endeavors to get this thing gone, I’ll be

glad to do. And with that, I’ll yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Burton.

And to wrap up our hearing, Dr. Paul is recognized from Texas.

Thank you.