Thank you.

The State Department is working hard to bring the blessings of

democracy and the Rule of Law to every country, except ours.

Rome was built with legislative decision making. Rome declined

and failed under an Imperial Executive.

We probably should authorize some action with regard to Libya.

Although I’ve got a lot of questions the administration doesn’t need

to answer, because they view us as irrelevant. But any authorization

should be limited as to time and scope so that we can then

pass additional resolutions with further review.

Any authorization should be conditioned on the Libyan rebels expelling

from their midst those with American blood on their hands,

those who fought us in Afghanistan and Iraq. And, particularly, the

Libyan Islamic fighting group.

And, finally, I would want to see any resolution require that this

mission be funded by the assets that Ghadafi was stupid enough

to leave in the United States, which have been seized by the U.S.

Treasury.

The administration takes the extremist view that the Executive

can deploy any amount of American force anywhere, anytime, for

any purpose, for any duration, with any effect, with only the most

cursory discussions with a few Members of Congress.

Worse than that, they won’t even articulate that view, they won’t

even acknowledge the 60th day, and the day on which they began

violating the law. But as the ranking member points out, the fault

is also here with Congress. So many of us would like to evade the

tough decisions. Democrats and Republicans know how to vote on

contentious issues because they come from Democratic and Republican

districts. But this is one that crosses party lines, this is one

that divides every one of our districts, and a lot of people would

just as soon duck the issue. That’s not our job.

We should put in every appropriations bill that the expenditure

of funds in violation of the War Powers Act constitutes a theft of

taxpayer money.

I tried with a few to get congressional leadership of both parties

to put in the CR that no money could be spent in violation of the

War Powers Act. We got no response. It’s time for Congress to step

forward. It’s time to stop treading the U.S. Constitution in a presumed

effort to bring democracy and Constitutional Rule of Law to

Libya. I yield back.