Mr. Speaker, I requested this Special Order to read a

statement that I earlier placed in the Record during the debate on the

Iraq war resolution.

I did not request time during the debate because it was obvious that

the chairmen controlling the time, all good friends of mine, wanted

only speakers who support the war, and I did not want to place them in

an uncomfortable position.

I did not request time from the Democrats because many of my

colleagues in the minority were using this debate in a bitterly

partisan way. Surely, war should be the last thing that should become

partisan.

Yet 80 percent of the House Republicans, including me, voted against

the bombings in Bosnia and Kosovo when President Clinton was in the

White House. I believe 80 percent of Republicans would have opposed the

war in Iraq if it had been started by President Clinton or Gore, and

probably almost all the Democrats would have then been supporting it,

as they did the bombings in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Much of the resolution that was just passed by this House contains

language that everyone supports, especially the praise for our troops.

Our troops do a great job everywhere they are sent. And it is certainly

no criticism of them to criticize this war.

In August of 2002, 2 months before Congress voted for the war in

Iraq, Dick Armey, then our Republican majority leader, in a speech in

Iowa said, ``I don't believe America will justifiably make an

unprovoked attack on another nation. It would not be consistent with

what we have been as a Nation.''

Jack Kemp wrote before the war, ``What is the evidence that should

cause us to fear Iraq more than Pakistan or Iran? Do we reserve the

right to launch a preemptive war exclusively for ourselves, or might

other nations such as India, Pakistan or China be justified in taking

similar action on the basis of fears of other nations?''

Mr. Kemp said, based on the evidence he had seen, there was not ``a

compelling case for the invasion and occupation of Iraq.''

William F. Buckley wrote that if he had known in 2002 what he knew

then in 2004, he would have been against the war. Last year he wrote

another column against the war, saying, ``A point is reached when

tenacity conveys not steadfastness of purpose, but misapplication of

pride.''

The very popular conservative columnist, Charley Reese, wrote that

this war was ``against a country that was not attacking us, did not

have the means to attack us, and had never expressed any intention of

attacking us. And for whatever real reason we attacked Iraq, it was not

to save America from any danger, imminent or otherwise.''

Many years ago, Senator Robert Taft expressed a traditional

conservative position: ``No foreign policy can be justified except a

policy devoted to the protection of the American people, with war only

as the last resort and only to preserve that liberty.''

Millions of conservatives across this Nation believe this war was

unconstitutional, unaffordable and worst of all, unnecessary. It was

waged against an evil man, but one who had a total military budget only

two-tenths of 1 percent of ours.

We are not going to be able to pay all our military pensions, civil

service pensions, Social Security, Medicare and all the other things we

have promised if we are going to turn the Department of Defense into

the Department of Foreign Aid and attempt to be the policeman of the

world.

This is contrary to every traditional conservative position on

defense and on huge deficit spending. The conservative columnist

Georgie Ann Geyer wrote, ``Critics of the war against Iraq have said

since the beginning of the conflict that Americans, still strangely

complacent about overseas wars being waged by a minority in their name

will inevitably come to a point where they will see they have to have a

government that provides services at home, or one that seeks empire

across the globe.''

Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I found out that a rating service called

voteview.com which studies all of our votes from the last Congress, 472

votes I think it was, from last year, in this Congress, rated me as the

sixth most conservative Member of this body. And yet I am steadfastly

opposed to this war and I have been since the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, we need to start putting our own people first once again

and bring our troops home, the sooner the better. And when somebody

says we can't cut and run, I surely hope they don't mean that we should

stay there forever.