Mr. Speaker, the point of difference today

appears to me to be the question of are we safer. I could not disagree

more with my colleague from California on this issue.

It is not a question of truth or falsity or even of credibility. It

is a question of judgment, a judgment that we collectively exercised as

a body when we undertook our responsibility under the Constitution to

authorize the use of force in Iraq. There were some things that were

very important to me when I made that decision, which are reinforced

here today. We knew that Saddam Hussein had used weapons of mass

destruction against his own people and against his neighbors. We knew

that he had tested unarmed aerial vehicles with sprayers. We knew that

he had another unarmed aerial vehicle program with smaller drones that

they were building and testing at long ranges. And we knew that that

unarmed aerial vehicle program sought to purchase route mapping

software over the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, September 11 we watched 3,000 people die in a morning.

That would be a footnote in American history compared to someone

determined to use disease to kill Americans. This is a question of

judgment, and we did the right thing to remove Saddam Hussein from

power.