Mr. President, a

good deal has been said in the last several

days concerning our potential involvement

as part of a NATO peacekeeping

operation in Kosovo. Having

had an opportunity to be briefed on

several occasions by the Administration,

I am concerned that we have not

given enough consideration to what we

will do if the initial plan fails, or is

somehow miscalculated.

Further, I am astonished that we do

not have an end game for this exposure

of our young men and women whom we

would send into battle. As we consider

the consequences of involvement in the

Kosovo matter, and my sympathy runs

deep for those who are in harms way as

a consequence of this continued conflict,

I am terribly concerned for the

American lives which would be in

harms way if we send troops to Kosovo.

I just don’t think we can continue to

be all things to all people.

There are certain times when we

have to evaluate what is our appropriate

role and when it is time to rally

our allies in an efficient, effective coalition

of support, of access, of supplies,

some way short of a conflict.

When one looks at the armaments

over there, we find Russian, we find

Chinese, we find U.S., and we find European.

As a consequence, had we

taken steps some time ago to ensure

that this sophisticated weaponry would

not fall into irresponsible hands, we

might have been able to avoid it. But

we are down to a time when the administration

obviously is reluctant to

admit that, indeed, we are at the brink

of entering into a war.

Some have suggested it could be the

beginning of World War III. I am not

going to dramatize, but do want to emphasize

that I do not believe that we

have given sufficient attention and

strategic analysis to the alternatives

to intervention, or to a withdrawal

plan should we proceed to send troops

to Kosovo. As a consequence, this Senator

is not prepared to support an action

at this time. I think the President

of the United States owes it to the

country, as well as to Congress, to

come before the body with a clear-cut,

committed plan that addresses the

questions I have asked this morning.

I, as one Senator, want to put the

White House on notice that support

from this Senator from Alaska, at this

time, is not there.

I also want to emphasize another

point, Mr. President, concerning our

potential intervention in Kosovo. We

are about to enter into a recess at the

end of next week and will not reconvene

as a body until sometime in mid-

April. Any action by the administration

to send our troops, as a part of a

NATO operation, into action during

our absence, obviously puts the Congress

in the position of having to support

our troops—while we may not necessarily

support the underlying action.

Of course, we will want to support our

troops, and we will support our troops.

But, because of the timing, we as a

Congress must decide now—before our

troops go in—whether or not we support

this intervention. I encourage

Members to express their opinions now,

in fact plead that Members go on

record with this issue, before we are

asked to support our troops in Kosovo.

Mr. President, I see no other Member

wishing to be recognized. I suggest the

absence of a quorum.