Mr. President, I thank

the distinguished Senator from Alaska

for his comments. There will come a

time when the Senate should debate

this question.

I compliment the distinguished Senator

from Alaska on his concerns with

respect to Saddam Hussein. I believe he

said we have every reason to believe

Saddam Hussein has developed a nuclear

capability. I hope I am not misquoting

the Senator.

In the days ahead, we will want to

know what the evidence is. I do not intend

to get into any long debate at this

point about the matter because we

have a bill before us with a pending

amendment. We need to get on with

that, but no Senator is seeking recognition

at this point.

Perhaps Saddam Hussein has developed

such a nuclear capability. When

the able Senator says we have every

reason to believe he has, that is not

quite the point. Where is the evidence?

Of course, it is to be expected that

some people in this country will assign

unpatriotic reasons for the asking of

questions by Senators. We have a right

to ask questions, we have a duty to ask

questions, because we are living in a

very perilous time.

The war drums are beating all around

us. I want to listen to what is said. I

want to listen to what the President

has to say. I want to listen to what he

is going to say at the United Nations.

I hope the United Nations will respond.

I am not saying we in the Congress

have to have authorization by the

United Nations. Authorization is contained

right here in this little book I

hold in my hand, the Constitution of

the United States. This Congress has

the power to declare war.

I, for one, am not going to hang my

vote on an authorization by the U.N.

for us in this Congress to do thus and

so. We should know what the United

Nations has to say. I think the United

Nations should take a position. If the

straits are as dire as we hear, then the

United Nations ought to be concerned.

And the United Nations ought to give

the world the benefit of its opinion. I

am glad the President is going to the

United Nations.

I am breaking our own rules here. I

ask unanimous consent, although the

Pastore rule may not have run its

course, I may speak on a different subject.

The United Nations, I

think, has a duty to let the world know

where it stands and what its opinion is.

If this country is going to eventually

go into a difficult situation, as may

confront us, if war is declared by this

legislative branch, or if war is approved,

authorized, by this legislative

branch, then we in the United States

should not have to go it alone.

But when we say we have every right

to believe that Saddam Hussein has developed

nuclear capability, well, we

have every right in our minds to think

perhaps he has, and we can easily convince

ourselves, but is that enough?

Where is the evidence?

I, for one, intend to ask questions as

we go along. It is not unpatriotic to

ask questions. I intend to ask questions.

I have a right to ask questions.

Where is the evidence? We might think

about that as we go along.