Mr. President, I thank

my dear colleague and floor leader. I

will make a couple of comments.

I have listened to these arguments,

and I would say they have been made

very effectively and with great eloquence.

But as I hear them, they boil

down to two simple arguments. The

first argument is that if we are going

to use military power against Saddam

Hussein, we ought to do it within the

context of the United Nations and it

ought to be part of a multinational effort.

I reject that.

I reject it because when we are talking

about the security of our Nation, I

am not willing to delegate the responsibility

of protecting it to the U.N.

When it comes to the lives and safety

of our people, I am not willing to leave

that up to the U.N. I am not even willing

to leave it up to our allies. It is the

responsibility of the U.S. Government.

That is why we need this resolution.

The plain truth is, if nobody else in

the world is willing or able to do this

job, we are able and we are willing.

That is what this resolution says. And

by being able and being willing, I believe

there will be others who will help

us.

The second argument can be explained

through an analogy. Let’s say

there is a rattlesnake nesting in your

rock garden. Our colleagues are saying,

look, if you go in there and try to find

that rattlesnake and try to kill him, he

is liable to bite you. The probability of

being bitten is lower if you leave him

alone.

For a short period of time, they are

right. There is no doubt about the fact

if you put on your snake boots and you

get rat shot and your pistol and go out

there with a stick and start poking

around trying to find him, the probability

during that period of time that

you are going to get bitten does go up.

But most rational people get their pistol

and get that stick and go out there

because that rattlesnake will be out

there for a long time. Your dog might

go through there and get bitten. Your

grandchild might be playing out there.

The good thing about going in to find a

rattlesnake is you know he is there and

you are alert to the threat.

My view is we do have the rattlesnake

in the rock garden. We have the

ability to go in and get him out. And

because of the threat that it poses to

us, I don’t think we ought to wait

around to do what we know we need to

do. In looking at the future, I say the

threat is greater if we do not act than

if we do.

Those are the two arguments I hear.

They are in fancier garb and they are

better put. But it really boils down to,

let’s turn over our security to the U.N.

or to our allies. I am not willing to do

that. Let’s avoid the risk of this conflict

because it will be dangerous while

the conflict is going on. It will be a lot

safer once the conflict is over.

That is where we are. I think we are

doing the right thing. I think we are

going to have an overwhelming vote.

We have had great bipartisan success

on this force resolution because Saddam

Hussein has no organized political

support in America. I wish we did not

face organized political support for opposition

to homeland security.