

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) delivered a speech on the House floor on Tuesday, October 10, 2002.

Below is the text of Olver's remarks:

□□□□□□□□ I rise today in opposition to this resolution.

□□□□□□□□ There is no question that Saddam Hussein has been a menace to the international community.

□□□□□□□□ The President's resolution coincides with his introduction of unilateral, pre-emptive military action.

□□□□□□□□ In asserting the right to use unilateral, pre-emptive action in Iraq, the administration appears to be setting a precedent.

□□□□□□□□ A unilateral, pre-emptive attack by the United States against Iraq is a made-to-order event that will not solve the problem.

□□□□□□□□ War with Iraq will clearly divert attention from the war against Al-Qaeda, which is not yet won.

□□□□□□□□ Furthermore, a unilateral, pre-emptive strike would make the quest for peace between Israel and the Palestinians more difficult.

□□□□□□□□ Like many of my colleagues, I favor working through the UN to disarm Iraq by the strongest means possible.

□□□□□□□□ If Iraq refuses to allow full and unfettered inspections and refuses to fully disarm its weapons, we will have no choice.

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