HON. JONATHAN B. BINGHAM
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 23, 1975

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I
strongly object to the decision by the

House and Senate leadership to invite
Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to ad-
dress a joint session of the Congress on
November 5, 1975. This rarely ex-
extended privilege is an inap-
propriate action for
the United States at this time. It is said
to have had its origins in a specific re-
quest from President Sadat to address
the Congress, a request which was en-
dorsed by the administration. Sadat is
understandably eager to advance his
view of recent events in the Middle East
and make a case for large new amounts
of American aid to his country. Con-
fronted with what amounted to a fait
accompli, the leadership in both House
and Senate decided to demonstrate U.S.
good will and evenhandedness by ac-
knowledging the appearance, and by ar-
ranging a similar appearance by the Prime
Minister of Israel in the near future.

While heads of state are occasionally
invited to address a joint session, I cannot
agree that President Sadat deserves
such an invitation at this juncture. His
reputation as a peacemaker is of very
recent vintage and it is impossible to
know yet if it will mature into real and
long-lasting peace.

He has taken a few risky steps toward
establishing a less belligerent rela-
tionship with the nation of Israel and peo-
ple around the world hold deep hopes
that more steps will follow. But Egypt’s
moves toward peace in the Middle East
have only just begun and pale in com-
parison with 28 years of off-and-on war
with the objective of destroying the state
of Israel.

It is important to note that during
that same 28 years no invitation of this
kind was extended to the Government
of Israel. Why is it that this valiant
democracy only offered this opportunity
in the wake of an announcement that
the leader of the principal Arab con-
frontation state will appear before the
Congress on November 5?