for the effort he has undertaken, and hope that my colleagues on this side of the aisle would accept the amendment and work with the gentleman to see that his ultimate report is, in fact, issued so this body can learn lessons from the Kosovo crisis.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my distinguished chairman, who has also been a tireless advocate for finding peaceful solutions to international crises, and I look forward to adding my support to the vote on this amendment.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to first say that my work on this amendment was inspired by the leadership of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who saw a very important moment in the history of the Kosovo conflict and rallied Members from both sides of the aisle to a higher level of participation, and I want to publicly thank him not only for supporting the amendment but also for his almost singular leadership in this House on behalf of peace. So I thank him for his support.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY).

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Chairman, I join my colleagues in commending the gentleman from Ohio for his amendment and for the wonderful work that was done during this period of crisis that we have recently faced. I want to lend my voice of support for the work that the gentleman does, his efforts on behalf of peace and on this amendment, and I thank him for introducing it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time, but also want to thank the gentlewoman from Georgia for her support and for her participation and her efforts over the past year.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I would like to inquire as to how much time remains.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), who has sponsored this amendment calling for a study of the role of diplomacy regarding the Kosovo conflict, and I want to thank him for his very thoughtful amendment. Everything he does is thoughtful, and this is just another example.

I personally voted against military action, Mr. Chairman, and history will someday give us a clue and perhaps some real answers as to whether or not diplomacy before the conflict was working and whether diplomacy during the conflict was responsible for ending the conflict.

I support the notion of an independent panel to examine this. We have ample reason for concern that a report by the administration about its own policies would simply be a defense or an apology for those policies and little more. This administration certainly has a record of paying, at best, lip service to congressional initiatives in foreign policy.

I would also like to say that the report must, in addition to considering the question of diplomacy versus military intervention, assess the situation on the ground in Kosovo to which the international community was seeking to respond. The ideas of conflict resolution, preventive diplomacy, and negotiated settlements are theoretical concepts, and they do not incorporate the notion that one side might not have had one ounce of good will and instead had a clear willingness and desire to commit genocide instead.

Finally, diplomatic initiatives are supposed to be motivated by good intentions, and most are, but the report should consider that not all motivations are good. Having just returned from St. Petersburg session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, many of us were subject to a heavy dose of Russian propaganda which, among other things, alleged that there was no dissent here to the administration's policies. That is obviously false, and I must say I would not want to see Russian initiatives to have been considered well intentioned just because they were diplomatic.

As a critic of the NATO action, I do not want to see a report which would simply vindicate my own beliefs. It must also assess whether diplomatic alternatives in dealing with a regime with a track record like that of Slobodan Milosevic might have made a just solution to the Kosovo crisis all the more elusive. Otherwise, the report would be no different than the latest administration proclamation of the wisdom of its ways.

Having said this, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the gentleman's thoughtful amendment and I recommend the full House adopt it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I wish to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his thoughtful and analytical approach to this important question. I also want to thank him for his leadership on human rights, which has animated his support not only for this amendment but for his work in so many vital areas in this Congress.

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I am very pleased to have the support on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER) having resumed the chair, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that the Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H.Res. 225) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 255

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Appropriations: Mr. BLUNT of Missouri.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING ASTRONAUT PETE CONRAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the sad occasion of the recent loss of a great American hero. Pete Conrad truly embodied our Nation's preeminence in space exploration and the progress of our Nation's space program.

As a lifetime fan of space exploration, I have been inspired by Captain Conrad's achievements in space and devotion to building America's space program.

I recently had the honor of meeting this great man, a brief meeting that I will never forget. In the short amount of time we spent together, I sensed the passion and dedication he held for our Nation's space program. As I shook his hand to say goodbye, I knew that I had just met a true American hero.