California headed the Select Committee on China and has been an outstanding example of even temperment, full-mindedness and bipartisanship in his handling of the House investigation of Chinese espionage at our nuclear laboratories.

Although there is considerable evidence that the administration has been selectively leaking the most sensational stories to the New York Times, the Cox Committee has been a tomb. No one has accused Chairman Cox or anyone on his staff of leaking information about his long-awaited report, an extraordinary achievement in Washington.

Thus far, public statements by the gentleman from California have been judicious and moderate and he has bent over backwards not to be partisan, even though most of the espionage occurred during the periods 1994 and 1995. Instead, he has focused on what can be done about the problems at our Energy Department laboratories.

Cirrus Cox, well done. The American people have benefitted greatly from your outstanding work on this extremely important issue.

COMMENTS ON COX COMMITTEE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson stated, "I can assure the American people that their nuclear secrets are now safe at the labs." Somewhere I do not think the American people believe him.

In fact, the unanimous conclusion of the Cox Committee is also at odds with the Secretary's reassurance. The committee concludes that "such thefts almost certainly continue to the present day."

I am quite distressed at the reaction of the administration's spokesmen who even to this very day are downplaying the significance of the Cox report finding. And, of course, they are changing the subject.

The big news is not that our nuclear secrets were stolen. The incomprehensible news is what this administration has done about it when it was discovered in 1995 that the crown jewel of our nuclear arsenal, the W-88, was stolen by the Communist Chinese.

No one told the President. The Justice Department denied the FBI's request for a wiretap on the clear and obvious suspect.


THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question de novo of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.