I am filling in until our leader gets

back—Congressman Cass Ballenger. I am sorry I missed substantially

what you said here, and then I was just about listening to

Tom Campbell’s description of his status as far as politics is concerned,

and they asked me to go vote real quick and come back so

we can keep this thing going.

But I would like to ask you what has occurred in the paper this

morning, and I think this question leads to it. During his 1992 visit

to China, President Yeltsin stated that Russia should sell China its

most sophisticated weapons and so forth. Since then Russia has

sold China advanced fighter aircraft, quiet-running diesel subs,

guided missile, destroyers armed with advanced Sunburn anti-ship

missiles and so forth. In fact, China now accounts for about 30 to

40 percent of all Russia’s arms exports. One U.S. periodical described

this as China’s buying binge in Moscow and called it a message

to the U.S. 7th Fleet. Isn’t Russia helping China to challenge

us as far as force projection in the Pacific Rim in the future is concerned?

A couple more on that line. Is the United States

concerned over Russia’s assistance to India in extending the range

of its missiles and over the new Russian sales of cruise missiles to

India? Did I state that properly? Is the United States concerned

about Russia’s assistance to India to extend the range of its missiles?

The sale of cruise missiles to India.

In the *New York Times*, April 27th, 1998, Russia——

Classified as far as the *New York Times* is concerned.

It said, ‘‘Russia helping India to extend range of its missiles.’’

Obviously sometimes the *New York Times* gets ahead of the

rest of us around here. I just was curious.

Let me just ask a basic, then. Russia’s ability

to produce cruise missiles of some capabilities, is that fairly common

knowledge or not?

I am just referring to the paper stories about

India—I mean, China and Russia getting together to veto whatever

is going to go on in Kosovo and telling us to get out immediately.

How seriously do you take that, that basic threat or effort on their

part?

Right.

Mr. Faleomavaega, you yielded a minute. Would

you like the rest of your time?

Sure, be happy to.

Mr. Cooksey.