

editorial

Strang scolded for opposing arms race negotiation

President Reagan is passing up one of the greatest opportunities for real control of the nuclear arms race and our representative in Congress Michael Strang, seems to fully support the administration's unwillingness to negotiate.

Last year Gorbachev halted his nation's underground testing of nuclear weapons and challenged the U.S. to respond in kind. That initiative expires this month. If weapons testing ends, the arms race will come to a screeching halt. Reagan called the Soviet proposal a propaganda ploy. Yet the U.S. had little to lose, as we had already tested twice as many weapons in 1985--and since the beginning of the arms race--as had the Soviets at the time of their proposal.

A six-month testing moratorium could not harm this nation's security.

We should have been the ones to unilaterally stop testing and challenge the Soviets.

Rep. Strang last week voted against a much milder proposal, which the U.S. House passed despite his negative vote. The non-binding resolution urged President Reagan to resume talks with the Soviets in behalf of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. This was just a call for talk, and just a support of a mutual, not unilateral, halt to testing.

Yet Strang opposed a simple call for negotiations.

This was not just party politics. The Republican-controlled Senate passed a similar measure two years ago. Fellow Colorado

Republicans, Reps. Hank Brown and Dan Schaefer, voted for the resolution last week. From Colorado, only reactionary Ken Kramer, whose district includes Colorado Springs, joined Strang. Yet Strang has virtually no elements of the military industrial complex in his district and his own survey of his constituents showed that 64% of those responding favored a cut in military spending.

One of the first military spending cuts ought to be an end to the production of weapons of mass genocide. An end to testing would end the production.

The Third District needs a new representative better able to work for future which does not include an ever-present threat of holocaust.

Gary Sprung

Aspen is a copy-cat

How could they be such copy-cats? The Aspen Ski Company has decided to name its new six-person, high speed gondola the Silver Queen. That's our name for Crested Butte's primary chairlift. Surely with all the brains and bucks over there they could have

figured out something more original. True, they had their Silver Queen mine and silver boom heydays, just as we did.

Maybe we should make a deal. If they'll drop the Silver Queen name, we'll let them use "Snodgrass" as much as they want.

GS