motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. LIGHTFOOT, WOLF, ISTOOK, KINGSTON, FORBES, LIVINGSTON, HOYER, VISCLOSKY, COLEMAN, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 359

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 359. When I first signed on as a cosponsor, I thought it might be a good way to address some patent department deficiencies, but since then I have changed my opinion and I respectfully ask to be withdrawn as a sponsor of H.R. 359.

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

There was no objection.

## APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1977, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right, I will not object, but I did want to take the opportunity to address the distinguished chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. As the chairman knows, the Committee on Resources has approved H.R. 1332, which would eliminate the Office of Territorial and International Affairs [OTIA] and terminate its programs. This action will save taxpayers $16 million in fiscal year 1996 and $117 million over the next 7 years. This authorization bill, which I introduced, received widespread bipartisan support and is currently awaiting floor consideration.

Mr. Speaker, when the floor considered H.R. 1977, the Interior appropriations bill, I offered an amendment to delete the funding for the OTIA and its programs in accordance with our committee's work. The chairman graciously accepted my amendment. Unfortunately, the other body has gone in just the opposite direction in their appropriations bill by preserving in some ways and enhancing this unnecessary office in other ways. It is my hope that the Chair and other House conferees will stick firm to the House position in trying to eliminate this piece of bureaucracy.

At the very least I would ask that, since both authorization committees have such opposite views of the future need of the OTIA, that the chairman not accept any legislative language from the Senate involving the OTIA or its programs and that they subject any appropriation for the OTIA, its programs or former territories, to an authorization.

Mr. Speaker, this issue should be resolved by the authorization committees, and I would appreciate the chairman's consideration.

Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA].

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and we certainly will.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

### MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES OFFERED BY MR. YATES

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. YATES moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 1977, be instructed to disagree to the amendment of the Senate numbered 158.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES].

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a straightforward motion instructing the House conferees to retain the moratorium on the hard rock mining claims. During House consideration of the bill, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLUG] and the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. RAHALL] offered an amendment to insert the existing moratorium language that has operated this year. The amendment was adopted by a bipartisan vote of 271 to 153.

My motion tells the conferees to stay with the current moratorium language. It requires them to abide by the rule of the significant majority of the House to stop the corporate welfare that has resulted in companies receiving mineral rights worth hundreds of millions of dollars for as little as $2.50 an acre.

The latest example of that, Mr. Speaker, was a few days ago when Secretary Babbitt was required to sign an application for a patent by a foreign company which is estimated to be able to mine 1 billion dollars' worth of minerals in return for a payment of $275. It is time to stop this raid on the Federal Treasury that has gone on for more than 100 years. It is time for the legislative committees to make substantive changes to the 1872 Mining Act.

Mr. Speaker, my motion is a vote for fiscal responsibility, and I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH].

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct House conferees to accept the mining patent moratorium, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

The House adopted a 1-year moratorium on issuing mining patents. The Senate, however, took another tack. Senate provisions would require fair market value of the surface value of patented lands. The Senate also adopted a reverter clause so that, if land patented for mining is ever used for any other purposes, it reverts back to Federal control.

The Senate provisions raise revenue while the house provisions do nothing but preserve the status quo. Comprehensive mining law reform proposals are pending in both the House and the Senate. These proposals include royalties, which will lead to additional increases in revenue to the Treasury. However, past experience has shown that a patent moratorium will stifle any progress toward comprehensive mining law reform and preserving the status quo which both sides of this issue agree is not acceptable. The only responsible position is to oppose the motion to instruct, thus bringing in revenue and clearing the way for comprehensive mining law reform.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the motion to instruct.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I had neglected in my opening remarks to point out that the most important and significant leader in support of the patent moratorium in this House has been the chairman of this appropriations subcommittee the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA]. His speeches on this subject have been illuminating and have been very persuasive, and I know that he will be very, very persuasive in support of the House position at such time as we meet on the conference.