that his opposition, which I believe is largely symbolic here today, will not succeed.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do not see my opposition as largely symbolic. I perceive it as very real. I believe that what they are talking about is that it know that it is not symbolism that I am seeking.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would note that that is unquestionably a lot easier for Members of the other body to do because, as the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGTON] indicated, newspaper stories indicate that there are possibly up to 80 percent of the Senate that are millionaires. I regret that condition; I think we would be better off if we had a more even spread among income groups in the other body. But we do not, and I recognize it is much easier for them to do this than it is for those on this side of the Capitol, but I think under the circumstances this is the best course of action. I think Members understand that.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, yield back the balance of my time.
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. LIGHTFOOT, WOLF, ISTOOK, KINGSTON, FORBES, LIVINGSTON, HOYER, VISCOSKY, 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.

There was no objection.


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 Iowa? There was no objection.

MOOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES OFFERED BY MR. YATES

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

The Clerk reads 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.

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 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 of the Interior Gale Norton denied 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. 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, 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, while being very persuasive, I know that he will be very, very persuasive in support of the House position at such time as we meet on the conference.