

process that would require Congress not just to read the report but to vote on whether to adopt its recommendations.

Here's how my bill would work:

#### BIPARTISAN CUTS COMMISSION

The Commission on Unfair Tax Breaks and Subsidies, or "CUTS Commission", would consist of five members. Its chair would be a person named jointly by the Speaker and the Senate majority leader. The Speaker and the majority leader of the Senate would each pick one other member, and so would the minority leaders in each Chamber. Members would be chosen on the basis of their expertise and to represent a fair balance of views.

The Commission's job would be to identify and evaluate payments, benefits, services, or tax breaks to see if they meet the test of a reasonable expectation that they will bring a return to the public at least equal to the value of the cost to the taxpayers.

#### SCOPE OF REVIEW

The scope of this review would not include payments made to or tax breaks benefiting individuals, to state or local government or Indian tribes, or Native corporations organized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or to nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations.

It also would not cover support for research and development based on peer-reviewed or other open, competitive and merit-based procedures where the subject is in the public interest and the work is not likely to be done, or done with equal benefit to the public, by the private sector.

Similarly, the review would not include payments or tax breaks primarily benefiting public health, safety or protection of the environment; the development and use of renewable energy; improved energy efficiency; or education.

Finally, the Commission would not review matters of national security, including homeland security, compliance with trade agreements or treaties, or procurement contracts—and could not propose new programs or taxes or the termination of federal agencies.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission would have a year to complete its work. Within that time, it would first prepare a preliminary report for review by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, and then a final report to Congress.

The Commission's report would specify which changes in subsidies the commission is recommending—and any recommendation supported by at least four of the five members of the Commission would be assured of prompt consideration by Congress.

#### LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the bill, recommendations with that high degree of bipartisan support on the commission would have to be introduced as bills, and each committee to which they were referred would have a 20-day deadline to reporting them.

A committee could consider only amendments that would terminate or reduce an inequitable subsidy, except that the tax-writing committees could offset revenue increases with broad-based tax cuts, they could not use limited tax breaks of the kind that would have been subject to a line-item veto under the Line-Item Veto Act of 1996. If a committee failed to meet the deadline for reporting, it would be discharged.

Bills reported from committees would go to the Rules Committees of each Chamber. If

more than one bill is reported, Rules would consolidate them into one measure which would go to the floor. After 5 days, excepting weekends and holidays, a motion to proceed to its consideration would be privileged and not debatable and, if adopted, the bill would be considered under procedures limiting the time for debate. Similar procedures would apply to conference reports after each Chamber had acted.

In short, Congress could not ignore consensus recommendations by the Commission. It would have to debate them and then vote on whether to adopt them.

#### POTENTIAL FOR SAVINGS

It is not possible to say exactly how much this bill will save the taxpayers—that depends on what the Commission might recommend and how many of their recommendations Congress would approve. I have seen estimates that the kinds of subsidies and tax breaks covered by this bill could be costing tens of billions of dollars annually just in terms of special-interest spending programs, not to mention special tax breaks—such as provisions to suspend the tariffs on certain items—many of which are of particular benefit to just one or a few companies. So, I think the potential is considerable.

#### EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

And as important as the savings that could come from enactment of my bill is the increased budget equity and congressional accountability that it would promote. Special-interest subsidies, whether through spending or tax breaks, are great for the beneficiaries but they aren't always great for the taxpayers and they often are harmful to competing companies or other entities that don't get the benefit of the subsidies.

So, trimming or eliminating that kind of subsidies could save money and would remove inequities—and requiring those of us in Congress to stand up and be counted on whether to trim or eliminate some of them would increase our accountability to the taxpayers, to those hurt by the subsidies, and to the American people.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I think this bill deserves the support of our colleagues. For their benefit, here is an outline of its major provisions.

#### OUTLINE OF COMMISSION ON UNFAIR TAX BREAKS AND SUBSIDIES ("CUTS") BILL

Commission—5 members: chair appointed jointly by House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader, plus one each appointed by House Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and House and Senate Minority Leaders. Members to be chosen on basis of expertise and to reflect diverse views. No Federal employees on the commission, but agencies can detail people to provide technical expertise.

Duration—Commission would have one year to complete its review and report to Congress.

Scope of Review—Commission would review payments, benefits, services, and tax breaks provided to companies, joint ventures, associations, etc. but not to individuals, state or local governments, Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, or tax-exempt nonprofits. Review would not cover support for research and development based on open, merit-based competition if it is consistent with public interest and federal agency purposes and private sector cannot reasonably be expected to do it as well. Also outside scope of review: matters involving public health or safety or the environment;

development or use of renewable energy; greater energy efficiency; national security (including homeland security); or education. Review also would not involve matters needed to comply with international trade or treaty obligations or federal procurement contracts.

Report—Commission's preliminary report would be reviewed by GAO; final report would go to Congress with recommendations for changing or eliminating subsidies covered by commission's review. Any recommendation backed by at least 4 commission members would have to be introduced as legislation.

Action by Congress—Committees would be limited in amending bills to adopt recommendations by at least 4 of the 5 commission members and would have to report them for floor action with time limits on debate. So, Congress would have to act on those recommendations.

IN TRIBUTE TO FATHER ROBERT F. DRINAN: MAN OF GOD, POLITICAL LEADER, AND EDUCATOR

#### SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 5, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Father Robert F. Drinan, his enduring faith, and lifelong commitment to human rights. Father Drinan passed on January 28, 2007, at his residence in the Georgetown University Jesuit community in Washington, DC. He was 86 years old and had recently been ill with pneumonia and congestive heart failure.

Father Drinan was an unwavering defender of the civil and human rights of all Americans. His commitment to these principles was anchored by his religious conviction and a fundamental belief in the rights of all people to be respected and protected by their governments and elected leaders. It was this conviction that led Father Drinan to politics in 1970 when he sought a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his tenure in Congress, Father Drinan was an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam war and was the first person to call for the impeachment of President Nixon. Father Drinan was re-elected four times, serving from 1971 until 1981. He stepped down in accordance with a directive from Pope John Paul II, barring priests from holding public office.

Father Drinan was the first Roman Catholic priest to serve as a voting member of the U.S. Congress. I had the honor of serving with him on the Judiciary Committee during the Watergate proceedings. He was a man of deep convictions, a passionate leader and a good friend. Long after he left Congress, Father Drinan continued to be a vocal supporter of human rights. Through his words and his actions he demanded morality in our political leadership. Ever committed to his work, Father Drinan spent the past 21 years as a professor at the Georgetown Law Center where he focused on legal ethics and international human rights.

We all mourn the loss of Father Robert F. Drinan, a man who committed his life to standing up for what he believed. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING GRANT SAMPSON  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Sampson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Sampson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF  
BARBARA McNAIR

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, February 4, 2007, after a long battle with throat cancer, pioneering singer and actress Barbara McNair passed away. I rise today to remember and memorialize this important American.

Born March 4, 1934, in Racine, Wisconsin, Ms. McNair began performing at an early age. Encouraged by a family that saw her potential, Barbara McNair began singing at 5 years old in the local churches. She would later go on to study at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago and thereafter attended the University of California, Los Angeles, before moving to New York City to pursue her dream of becoming an entertainer.

A 1957 engagement at New York's Village Vanguard earned her the notice which would eventually lead to her first Broadway performance in the play "The Body Beautiful" a year later. She went on to star in the Broadway musical "No Strings" in 1963. While Barbara McNair continued to gain a following as a nightclub singer throughout the early 1960s, her big break came with a win on Arthur Godfrey's television show, Talent Scouts. Her appearance on the show led to bookings at The Purple Onion and the Coconut Grove. Reviewing a nightclub appearance in late 1965, a New York Times writer commented that the "strikingly beautiful" McNair "does not have to depend on looks alone. She is a highly knowledgeable performer who projects an aura of beauty, a warm personality and an appealing sense of fun." She soon became one of the country's most popular headliners and a guest on such television variety shows as The Steve Allen Show, Hullabaloo, The Bell Tele-

phone Hour, and The Hollywood Palace, while recording for the Coral, Signature, and Motown labels.

Towards the end of the 1960s, as opportunities were opening up for African-American women in film and television, Barbara McNair made her Hollywood acting debut in 1968 in the film, "If He Hollers, Let Him Go." The following year she starred with Elvis Presley in his 1969 film "Change of Habit" and as Sidney Poitier's wife in the 1970 film "They Call Me MISTER Tibbs!" As she told the Washington Post in 1969, she found movie acting "a more rewarding kind of work than singing. When I'm working in a club, I must go from one song to another rapidly and I don't have much time to express myself emotionally. In a movie, you can concentrate on one scene at a time."

In 1969, Barbara McNair expanded her love of performing onscreen by becoming the host of her own syndicated variety series, The Barbara McNair Show. While the show was on the air for only two seasons, as one of the few television shows of the period to have a black host, it marked a tremendous step forward for African-Americans in general and African-American women in specific.

Barbara McNair retained a devoted following and continued to perform until shortly before her passing. While Ms. McNair is no longer with us, her music and contributions to breaking down the race and gender barriers on television live on.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE  
AMERICAN MONUMENT ACT OF  
2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni ("Let it not happen again") memorial. This memorial commemorates the Japanese Americans of Bainbridge Island, Washington, who were the first to be forcibly removed from their homes and relocated to internment camps during World War II.

In 1942, 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in internment camps—two-thirds of these were American citizens, none of which had ever shown disloyalty to the American cause. Forced to live under harsh conditions, the last internment camp closed 4 long years later.

These innocent Americans were treated unjustly by their own government during a time of war, simply because of their national origin, and such a crime against them must not go unnoticed. The memorial is rightly named with the words, "Let it not happen again," for it is important to remember the past mistakes of our government in an effort to avoid future ones.

As we recognize this, we must strive to ensure that all Americans know about these mis-

takes to prevent their repetition. H.R. 161 helps accomplish this by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate the development of interpretive and educational materials and programs regarding the Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans.

In times of war it may be easy to get carried away and put labels on those around us, assuming what their political ideals are based solely on their national origin or religious background. But as we have seen in World War II, such assumptions are unjust and can lead to disastrous consequences for a group of individuals.

I thank my colleague, Mr. INSLEE, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we never let such unjust practices occur in this great Nation again. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

HONORING THE TOWN OF WOLCOTT  
ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2007*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the town of Wolcott. This small town rests on the shore of Lake Ontario and currently has a population just under 4,700.

Named after Gov. Oliver Wolcott of Massachusetts, Wolcott was founded in 1807. The original town of Wolcott included what are now the present day towns of Huron, Rose, Butler, and Wolcott. At that time, the area was part of Seneca County.

In 1806, one of Wolcott's first settlers, Jonathan Melvin, purchased 500 acres in what would eventually become the village of Wolcott. Mr. Melvin built a gristmill and sawmill along with a frame house for his family, which he painted black. Known to be a very generous man, Mr. Melvin donated land for the construction of a local school and church.

One of the landmarks of Wolcott is the statue of Venus Rising from the Sea. In 1913 the statue was placed at the four corners in Wolcott at the site of the old town pump. Constructed of cast iron, the fountain has been a landmark in Wolcott for over eight decades. Venus Rising from the Sea is one of only eight such statues in America.

Production of iron was one of Wolcott's early main industries. The town was one of the two principle locations of the iron industry for western New York. The Wolcott furnace was located north of the village of Wolcott along the west bank of Wolcott Creek, on what is now Furnace Road. The Wolcott furnace was put into operation in 1821. The iron was formed into castings and hauled to Clyde, once the Erie Canal was constructed and began serving as the major transportation hub for bringing Wayne County products to market. The furnace remained operational until 1869 when the last run of iron making in Wolcott was completed. Today, Wolcott's main industries are fruit farming and food processing.

On behalf of the constituents of the 25th District of New York, I congratulate the town of Wolcott on its 200th anniversary.