

eliminate funding for \$400 million in low-priority highway demonstration projects. My amendment, which would have cut real pork, was not made in order. Instead the Republicans chose to cut funding for programs such as Healthy Start, which is aimed at improving the health of unborn children, and to eliminate over 50,000 pregnant mothers and infants from the WIC program.

Remember this bill only provides an \$11 billion down payment. The Republican tax cuts will cost over \$700 billion. The majority felt compelled to cut programs for children and the elderly first. It scares me, as it should any parent, to consider where they will get the remaining \$690 billion.

Why are we doing this? So that big industry and the rich can be given a tax break that I doubt they want. I can not imagine any businessman that wants to see the next generation of high school graduates turn out to be an illiterate workforce of dropouts. I know I don't and my constituents don't.

I do not support the rescissions contained in this bill and I urge my colleagues to vote against it. I believe that it cuts the wrong programs—programs that hurt children, low-income Americans, and the elderly—for the wrong reasons.

HONORING MOLLY BROWN, 1995
REFUGEE VOLUNTEER OF THE
YEAR

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 1995

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Molly P. Brown, a constituent of mine from Virginia Beach, VA, on being awarded the 1995 National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer of the Year Award.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association and the National Audubon Society have jointly established this annual award. Its purpose is to recognize the volunteer who best achieves the goals and objectives of the National Wildlife Refuge System [NWRS], which are superior organizational skills, innovation in handling refuge assignments, effectiveness in dealing with the public, and dependability. Ms. Brown's extensive service and long-standing commitment to the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge located in Virginia Beach, VA, clearly are above and beyond the criteria that merit national recognition.

As an advocate of environmental consciousness, Ms. Brown has appeared regularly before the Virginia Beach City Council and the zoning board to testify on city and State proposals affecting the Refuge. As a member of the Mayor's Growth Management Advisory Committee, Ms. Brown has frequently provided valuable citizen comments and observations on the city's land use, transportation, and infrastructure plans and programs.

Realizing the need to promote an awareness not only of the Refuge's mission but of other conservation activities within the region as well, Ms. Brown worked to establish both the Southeastern Association for Virginia's Environment [SAVE], and the Friends of Back Bay/Save Our Sandbridge organization of which she currently serves as president. Offer-

ing her time and talent at local events such as Earth Day and the Environmental Awareness Fair for Students, Molly Brown serves as a true emissary of the conservation movement.

During the 103rd Congress, Molly Brown traveled to Washington, DC, to testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior concerning the need for additional funding for Back Bay. Ms. Brown provided the Subcommittee with extensive information regarding the Refuge's plans to expand its boundaries and improve its natural habitat. The Back Bay land acquisition was one of only 33 projects funded nationwide in the Department of Interior Appropriations Act of 1994, attesting to the value of Ms. Brown's knowledgeable and articulate testimony.

It is with pleasure and honor that I join the other citizens of the Second Congressional District of Virginia in thanking and commending Molly Brown for her successful efforts in promoting awareness and appreciation of our area's natural resources, for her continuing efforts to obtain essential funding and Congressional support for Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and for her boundless enthusiasm for the Refuge system as a whole. She is a most deserving recipient of the 1995 National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer of the Year Award.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL
DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RE-
SCISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR
1995

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ORTON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes:

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Chairman, I am taking this opportunity to explain my vote against the rescissions and supplemental spending bill which passed the House last week.

On Wednesday night, I was pleased to vote for the "lockbox" amendment offered by Representative BREWSTER. I have been involved from the beginning in the development of this provision, which ensures that spending reductions are strictly dedicated to deficit reduction, and not simply reallocated to other spending programs or used to finance tax cuts. The lockbox amendment, approved by a 418 to 5 vote of the House, clearly stated that spending would be reduced by some \$55 billion over the next 5 years, and that all of these cuts could only be used to reduce the deficit.

Based on this amendment, and the resulting deficit reduction, I was prepared to vote for final passage of this bill. However, just prior to a final vote on the rescissions bill, the Budget Committee held a markup of legislation to lower spending caps for the next 5 years. At this markup, the Budget Committee chairman announced that he planned to use all of the savings in fiscal years 1996 through 2000 from the rescissions bill to finance the Republican tax cuts. He also announced that the lockbox provisions which would prevent this

maneuver would be stripped from the bill prior to a conference report.

Without ascribing motivations or analyzing negotiations that took place, the effect was that the approximately \$55 billion in outyear savings in the rescissions bill would not end up reducing the deficit by even a single dollar.

This made the bill unacceptable to me. Many of the cuts in this bill will be painful, especially in the areas of education, elderly housing, and children's programs. I could not in good conscience vote for these cuts, without assurance from leadership that they would honor the provisions of the lockbox amendment. So, reluctantly, I voted against final passage.

In addition, I must say that this decision was not made any easier by the unfair, highly restrictive way in which the bill was brought to the floor. Last week I explained in detail how this rule effectively protected 80 percent of the discretionary budget from budget cuts.

I also explained how the rule made it almost impossible to restore funds for good programs through cuts in bad or wasteful programs. I was prepared to support additional spending cuts in other parts of the budget to restore cuts that I believe were unfair or unwarranted. I would like to take this opportunity to identify those cuts I opposed.

The rescissions bill makes significant and unwise cuts in programs that promote opportunities. Cuts in impact aid and national service will hurt our education efforts. Cuts in foster care and grants for drug-free schools will have a negative effect on our children. And, cuts in information infrastructure grants will slow our efforts to develop and expand opportunities on the Information Superhighway. All of these are high priority areas.

I also oppose the excessive level of cuts for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. While I could support modest cuts in the CPB, the bill makes 30 percent cuts in fiscal year 1997 funding, on a path to terminating Federal support. These cuts will have a significant negative effect on public broadcasting, especially for rural areas.

Finally, the bill makes excessive cuts in housing and community development programs. Cuts which I believe should have been rejected or scaled back include public housing modernization, community development block grants [CDBG's] drug elimination funds, and public housing operating subsidies.

Especially unfair is the cut of \$404 million in operating subsidies for public housing authorities. It is fundamentally unfair to have agencies plan on receiving certain funding levels, and then make significant cuts in the middle of the year. Furthermore, the way these cuts are being implemented is especially unfair. PHA's with a fiscal year starting in July 1 will bear a disproportionate portion of the cuts, while those with an earlier fiscal year will be largely spared. I could not support this.

Again, I want to make it clear that I was prepared to support offsetting cuts to restore these important programs. I was also prepared to vote for additional cuts beyond those proposed by the committee—if the rule hadn't prevented this.

For example, I planned on offering an amendment with Rep. KLUG to zero out funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission. However, because of the short time limits placed on debate of this bill, we did not have