

moment. Unemployment in June was up to 6.4 percent, and those numbers don't even include the 4.5 million underemployed individuals, those who are working part time, looking for full-time employment but struggling to get by on part-time jobs. At least 1.3 million of these 4.5 million are in that category of looking for long-term, full-time employment but having to settle for something part-time. Yet they are excluded from our unemployment compensation provisions.

In addition, we will shortly be looking at new rules by the Department of Labor with regard to the Fair Labor Standards Act that relax overtime protection. We are also encountering proposals to increase the TANF requirements from 30 hours to 40 hours per week. Here, at a time when there are so many Americans struggling to find a job, struggling to find a few hours of part-time work, we are proposing to increase the number of work hours under the TANF Program. I think this approach to TANF will be another impact on the low-income children of this country because it will necessarily require mothers to spend less time with their children. Again, this is another example of a policy that is not good for the economy and it is certainly not good for children.

Then we are looking at Head Start proposals and AmeriCorps proposals, as Senator STEVENS just indicated, that are shortchanging so many people, particularly young people in this country. Again, I hope we can very quickly resolve this issue with respect to the child tax credit, the underlying point of my remarks today. There are 6.5 million wage earners who are working, contributing to our economy, and trying with all their might to raise their children. Today we are ignoring the plight of all of those 6.5 million people. I hope our indifference will end very quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO HAL MCCOY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable Ohioan—a man who has covered Cincinnati Reds baseball for the Dayton Daily News for the last 31 years. This weekend, Hal McCoy will join many legendary baseball players and sports writers when he is inducted into the writers wing of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. This is a fitting and well-deserved tribute to a man who reminds all his readers everyday about why we love baseball.

I am a life-long fan of the Cincinnati Reds. For the last 31 years, I have counted on Hal McCoy for complete, detailed, objective coverage of their

games. When I am back home in Ohio, the first thing I do when I pick up the Dayton Daily News in the morning is read Hal's reports. When I am in Washington, I read them off the Internet.

For more than 3 decades, Hal McCoy has brought to life in vivid detail thousands of Reds games. Through his words and insights, he has taken readers, like me, onto the field and into the clubhouse. With his stories, we have felt the players' pride in their wins and the pain in their losses. Hal McCoy has brought readers right to the game, giving us a real glimpse into the highs and lows of the Reds seasons.

One of the things I admire most about Hal is his incredible work ethic—unbelievable. Hal McCoy is, some people have said, almost a machine. I have always been amazed by his ability to crank out so much material and so many anecdotes and "notes" from the games. Nothing stops him.

You pick up the paper in the morning and you see the account of a game. Sometimes you will see a column to go along with that, you will see another story on the back page, and then you will see the notes of the game—sometimes three, sometimes even four stories just in one paper by one writer. That is Hal McCoy. He works and works and works and has an unending, unfettered enthusiasm, after all these years, for the game of baseball.

Hal McCoy is a very special man. I wish to take a few minutes today to tell my colleagues a little bit about his life and his career as a sports writer.

Hal was born and raised in Akron, OH. He played Little League baseball in Summit County and later graduated from Akron East High School. He then graduated from Kent State University in 1962, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a major in Journalism. Upon receiving his diploma, Hal immediately put his degree to good use when he started a job as a Dayton Journal Herald reporter, covering the Dayton Public prep league.

Hal first covered the Cincinnati Reds for the Dayton Daily News in 1973. No one knew at the time that Hal would be holding our Nation's longest-running tenure, covering one team continuously or that he would be recognized as one of the finest journalists in Ohio history, let alone one of the finest ever in his profession.

A few years ago, Hal suffered a stroke in his right optic nerve while covering a Reds game in St. Louis. He lost half of his vision as a result. While this would cause most people to slow down or stop, Hal could not be deterred. He overcame this adversity with grace and continued his post with the Reds.

Then, on January 23, 2003, Hal suffered a stroke in his other eye. Suddenly, legally blind, Hal was faced with a seemingly insurmountable obstacle—the eyes that he had been using for years to "show" the game to his readers essentially stopped working for him. But, Hal wouldn't let that stop

him. He persevered. He never complained. And, when faced with the choice to retire, his resolve to write his legendary stories only became stronger.

Today, Hal continues to attend and report on Reds games using a special large-size scorebook that he designed. He says:

I tell everybody I'm going to do this until my head hits the laptop, when I pass out in the press box. That's how much I love this job.

And let me tell you that Hal's fans couldn't be happier! Many, many Reds fans, like me, still can't wait to get up in the morning and read his stories. That is how much we enjoy his work and what he produces every day.

The publisher of the Dayton Daily News, Brad Tillson, has said this of Hal:

I've been reading Hal McCoy's coverage of Major League Baseball and the Cincinnati Reds for more than 30 years, and I never cease to be amazed at his insight into the game and his ability to communicate it to the readers. He calls the games as he sees them with candor, integrity, and authority. Sometimes it's more illuminating to read Hal's account of the game than it is to watch it.

I must also add that the respect of the players Hal McCoy covers is also very illuminating. When Hal was faced with the loss of his sight, some of the players went to him and told him: You can't quit. You need to keep doing what you love to do.

He is held in respect by the people he covers. I think that says a lot about Hal McCoy.

Of course, if you ask Hal about the secret to his success, he would respond that it is "the readers, the people." That connection with the people is very powerful. It is not at all surprising that Hal hasn't missed a road series in 30 years. Hal has said:

When I sit down at my laptop, it is the readers I have in mind. What would they want to know? I've tried to inform them, entertain them, and tell them the truth to the best of my capacities . . . I can never thank all the readers who have been so supportive. You are what we are all about.

It is this humble spirit and gratitude for his readers that Hal's friends and readers love most.

As Hal takes his destined place in the writers wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame, I join many other proud Ohioans in saying thank you. Hal McCoy is a terrific writer, a magnificent storyteller, and an exemplary and well-respected member of his community. My family—my dad and my children—extends its warmest congratulations and sincerest thanks to Hal for his wonderful writing and his dedication to continuing to do what he loves despite difficult challenges. We thank him for his service to the Dayton community, to the Miami Valley, to Ohio, and to our Nation.

I look forward to many more Cincinnati Reds seasons that Hal will cover and many more great stories.

Thanks Hal. We appreciate the great work you do.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I appeal to my good friend from New Mexico who is managing this Energy bill and ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business.

Mr. DOMENICI. I have no objection.

Mr. BURNS. For less than 10 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Whatever time the Senator desires. We have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. I thank my good friend.

FIGHTING FOREST FIRES

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, on the floor of the House of Representatives this morning, they are debating a supplemental appropriations bill that deals with some serious issues that are happening under the heading of disasters across this country. The appropriations bill does not designate any money for firefighting in the West. I have been told that right now the Forest Service currently has \$352 million available for wildfire suppression, but that is only going to last the next 2 weeks. The latest projections, which are conservative, I am told, indicate the expected expenditure for fighting forest fires this year is \$775 million.

We have a certain amount of money set aside for prevention; that is—if we didn't have this procedure called appeals—those accounts that are set aside for prevention will now be moved over to fire suppression. We are between a rock and a hard place.

It occurs to me that with the support of the White House, a clean supplemental for fire suppression, under emergency conditions, makes a lot of sense. We have to provide some money for fire suppression. The American people are turning on their television sets every night, and every night our forests are afire.

To give a rundown, they have evacuated all of Glacier National Park. Even some people they said would not have to evacuate—they are inholders in the park and have homes along Lake McDonald—they had to prepare their homes for fire prevention, and they left the park, for example, to get their groceries. Now they will not let those people back in. That is a local situation, and I am sure that is going to get ironed out.

That is how drastic this situation is. I call upon my friends in the House of Representatives: Do what is right to handle the emergencies we now have because, if we don't, when we start run-

ning out of money, then—due to this extended drought, with very hot conditions right now in the Rocky Mountain West—we are going to have these fires far into the month of September. It is just not right.

These fires are threatening our national treasures. McDonald Valley, Glacier National Park, is now on fire on both ends. Remember the book, "The Perfect Storm," about two storms coming together at the right time, and they are only 10 miles apart, that is the "perfect storm," and we could lose that entire forest.

I call upon my colleagues in the House to do the right thing now because we understand they are going to pass this bill and send it to the Senate. The Senate is in a vise. We either take it or we don't. If we don't, it will be zero dollars and the middle of September before any funds will flow into these areas that desperately need the money.

I don't know who is giving advice on this issue. I don't know who is doing the thinking on this issue. But I will tell you right now, it is wrong-headed to do it as the apparatus is set up to get it done now. It is just wrong-headed. I feel powerless to do anything, especially for the forests in my State of Montana, and that is not a very good feeling.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, before the Senator leaves the floor, I wish to make a comment.

First, I was present when Senator STEVENS, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, spoke, which was prior to Senator BURNS. He heard him, he talked to him, and then he spoke.

I wish to talk a minute about an issue that is dear to the Senator and Senator BINGAMAN, who sits here, and myself. We continue to have meetings in our Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Agriculture Committee of the Senate trying to analyze why it is we are unable to address the issue of thinning our forests and getting rid of blighted areas in large manner rather than taking so long and sitting by and watching the forests of America deteriorate to the point that they become tinderboxes. They are so filled with overgrowth that fires are inevitable. And when fires happen, very big trees burn because the bottom is totally filled with too many trees, too much brush, too many of the branches and leaves that have fallen. Then thousands of acres are blighted and dried and nobody is doing anything about it.

Then comes a fire. Then we come along and we say: Let's put up extra money to put out these fires, so-called disaster money. Then groups across America begin to run advertisements, have meetings and say: What is the matter with Congress? We can't get our forests thinned. We can't get them fixed. We cannot get the kind of reform that will get work done.

We have arguments that break along environmental and nonenvironmental lines. We can solve those, perhaps, in the next month or two.

But let me say to the U.S. House, I submit to you the real problem we are having in getting any kind of real cleanup of the forests—that is, preventive work done on American forests, be it BLM forests that belong to Interior or forests that belong to the Department of Agriculture and the National Forest Service—is because there isn't any money to do it.

The question is, why isn't there any money? We are always appropriating money for it. And every year there will be a bill that comes through here, Interior appropriations, and you find money for that, a lot of money for that. But guess what happens. Very shortly as the year starts, we have to put out fires. And then what happens? There is no money to put out those fires.

The disaster money we are talking about today and that Senator STEVENS came to the floor and told the House about, the Departments of our Government say: Well, we have a disaster. We have to spend the money.

Surely, they do. What they do is, they take money from other aspects of the Government. What are those? Many of them are accounts which would be used for major prevention on the forests. If there isn't any money for that, the year will pass. The money will have been spent on the disaster, and we will be here talking about a supplemental that is too late and inadequate, and the prevention will not occur.

It is so desperate that in our Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, there have been suggestions to try to set this money aside, to set up a new fund, a whole new way so that the prevention money is prevention money and nothing else. The distinguished Senator, Mr. BINGAMAN, has suggested such an effort.

I am not sure it will work because obviously once you get a big forest fire going and you don't have any money to put out the fire, they are going to find the money somewhere within the Department, unless you took it out of Interior and put it in the Army and said: You can't get it because it isn't even there. They are going to have to use the money they have and make it fungible, take it away from prevention and use it for disaster.

Somehow or another we have to stop that. While I am not today able to say to the House what they are and aren't doing because I am not privy to what Chairman STEVENS is, it seems to me that something like this is occurring early in the season in this supplemental that the House is talking about. Before we even get seriously into the season, we are having more of this: Well, we are having to put out disasters. We will find the money. And if we didn't put up enough, use other money. And yes, there will be a whole