

Elvis Presley. His hits, "April Love" and "Love Letters in the Sand," were No. 1 for six and seven weeks respectively. He starred in 15 movies, including Journey to the Center of the Earth and State Fair. Long an active conservative Republican, Boone is currently spokesman for the 60 Plus Association. Last week, Boone spoke with Human Events Political Editor John Gizzi.

You have always been known in Hollywood as a conservative and a Christian. In 1961, in fact, you, Ronald Reagan, Roy Rogers and John Wayne addressed Dr. Fred Schwartz's all-Southern California anti-Communist rally. Has it become more difficult for someone [in Hollywood] to be a conservative and a Christian today?

PAT BOONE: I was not involved politically at that time. Then, I felt so strongly about anti-communism and I did read Fred Schwartz's book and then came his crusade at the sports arena. What Schwartz said in his book [You Can Trust the Communists—To Be Communists] made perfect sense to me. The phrase, "Better Red Than Dead," was sweeping college campuses at the time.

When my time came to say a few words, I quoted that sentiment. I said I've got four little girls and if it ever came to that, although I pray it never will, I would rather see my four daughters blown to heaven in an atomic blast than caught in the hell of a Communist United States.

It impressed Reagan and he quoted that a number of times, beginning by saying, "I once heard a young father say." That's what occurred that night.

My activism and my being very outspoken never abated after that and it has cost me as an entertainer. There is a visceral antipathy that producers, hirers and firers have. I feel myself in the other direction. I have feelings I have to control of anger and total disregard for certain actors and outspoken people in our business that I think are ruining American culture.

Do you care to name any names?

BOONE: When Norman Lear started People For the American Way, he asked to meet with me. He wanted me to be the voice of People For the American Way—its spokesman. He knew I had considerable influence and a high-profile among Christians and Middle America.

I said to him: "Look, I understand why you have these feelings. You want to promote your point of view. But your main concern is with the Christian right, isn't it?" He said, "That's right." I said, "I know you've been openly critical of [Rev.] Jerry Falwell. I know Jerry, although I'm not a member of the Moral Majority. He feels that what you're doing and saying and promoting is at least as harmful for America as you feel his point of view is. So why don't we get you two guys together? I have a feeling that so many of your concerns are similar. Since I know him, I think he'd be willing to meet with you."

Lear said, "No, I wouldn't meet with him." When I asked him why, he said, "He'll just quote Scripture and I don't know anything about that. I'm not going to meet with him." When he left, he knew I wasn't going to be his spokesman.

I'm on the unpopular side in the entertainment community. A number of entertainers, Jonathan Winters for one, say to me, "Boone, I believe everything I ever hear you say. But I don't dare say it." Now, here's a comedian who'll say anything if it's funny, but when it comes to politics or spiritual things, he knows that he's written off if he were to express himself as emphatically as he would really like to.

Why have you signed on with the 60 Plus Association, and why do you believe its premier cause, abolishing the estate tax, is so critical?

BOONE: [60 Plus President] Jim Martin, a former Marine and longtime friend of the President, contacted me and asked me if I wanted to join him and his organization. I had been asked to be a spokesman for a number of seniors' groups, but I put it off because I wasn't ready or willing to be considered a senior. Several years ago, in a 10K race here in Los Angeles, I chose a very public moment in front of the network affiliate cameras to come out of the closet and admit I am a senior. Since then, I haven't been reluctant to let people know that, yes, I am a senior and I do feel very concerned about Social Security and the economy and medical costs.

I have considered for many years that this estate tax is absolute robbery. You already pay taxes, you save money, you've been a good citizen and a responsible person, you save up something, maybe it compounds, but you've already paid tax on it. Now, when you have the poor judgment to die, the government steps in and says, "Thank you for doing that all these years. We'll take half of that." And maybe your folks have to sell the business and the house.

When Bing Crosby's [first] wife Dixie died [in 1952], going back that far, he had to sell assets to pay the estate tax. On top of losing his wife, he was losing assets on which he already paid taxes. I read this was the case and asked him, and he said, "Oh yes. You can't get away from the long arm of the IRS."

Some say that hip-hop, acid rock and similar modern music is destructive. Do you agree that a lot of it is harmful?

BOONE: Oh, yes, I've been very vocal about that, too. The culture is being dragged into the gutter, and the ones doing it are not just the performers, but the record company executives. It's calculated on their part because they realize there's some fascination, as we used to be fascinated with Jimmy Cagney in the gangster movies. But in the movies, the criminals always got caught and punished.

The executives found some years ago that this "gangsta rap" music was being bought and played by kids out in the suburbs. These are the well-to-do kids, not the black kids in the ghetto areas. They were not the ones subscribing to it and making this music so successful. It was the kids driving BMWs that their dads gave them that were playing it very loud and rattling windows of the houses they were going by. They've made a multi, multi-million dollar business out of it.

What's the answer to this? Are you talking about censorship?

BOONE: I had a real head-to-head with Robert Blake one night on the Merv Griffin Show about censorship. I said that no society can survive without some form of censorship. He said, "You're crazy. We don't have censorship. That's bad." I replied, "Wait a minute. The traffic light at the corner is a form of censorship. It says you stop so that someone else can go. And then you have your turn to go." We have laws on the books that prevent you from standing up in a theater and yelling, "Fire," or from walking down the street and opening your trench coat and exposing yourself. There are laws that tell you that you can't do certain things and that's what a society does to protect itself.

I believe we need censorship. I don't think the arts we call the arts—literature, movies and certainly not the airwaves—should be exempt from the rules society makes to protect itself. It's the sensibilities of kids and the females we used to call ladies we're talking about. Thanks to "Sex and the City" and this other stuff, they can be just as profane and filthy as men.

I've watched segments of "The Sopranos," and I just get so sick of the glamour. Talk about Cagney and Bogart. We're making national heroes out of gang bosses.

I do advocate censorship for a healthy society with three provisos: that it be majority-approved, self-imposed and voluntary. The "voluntary" and "self-imposed" may sound like the same thing. The society agrees that we need to protect ourselves, and there are certain bounds beyond which we don't want the public to be exposed to filth. But we will make the rules in a voluntary, majority-approved way. And they can be changed by majority opinion.

I have felt that a healthy society should draw some lines in the dirt and say, "You cannot cross over this line. You cannot say certain words on public television and cable or anything that's going to reach sensibilities. We are going to do something to defend our kids and our ladies and our families." But it's something you just can't even talk about in the entertainment industry. But I say, how are we going to protect ourselves if we don't demand responsibility?

One final point—friends in California say that you were urged to run for Congress as a Republican in 1968. Why didn't you do it?

BOONE: That was back when I had all of my kids at home. I just knew that it would be totally time-consuming and if I were elected, I'd have to do the job. I thought I could get elected. But I also knew if I was elected, I would do my best to be a good congressman. However, it would be very disruptive of my family life because I would spend a lot of time away from family. And also, I could never go back to being an entertainer. ●

RECOGNIZING SAN BERNARDINO'S TEAM INLAND

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of some incredibly focused and dedicated young athletes from southern California. This year, the members of Team Inland placed third in the Nike National Youth Basketball Tournament, became the Amateur Athletic Union, AAU, West Coast National Champions, and won the AAU Southern Pacific Division 1 Regional Tournament.

Team Inland is a nonprofit organization based in the city of San Bernardino. It is comprised of 11-year-olds, who commit their time to prepare for numerous weekend basketball tournaments throughout the year. In 2005, they won 77 percent of their games, earning impressive placements in many tournaments.

Making Team Inland's achievement even more meaningful is the fact that team members excelled academically while striving to meet their athletic goals, each maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade point average. It is clear that these young people have set high standards for themselves and put forth tremendous effort to meet them.

The members of 2005 Team Inland are: Marquise Drumwright, Ejiro Ederaine, Tyler Ervin, Quinton Lilley, Jordan Mathis, Myles Pearson, Isaiah Pooler, Kameron Presley, Chandler Scott, Justin Snavelly, Dominique Walker, and Arther Ley Williams.

The Team Inland players have demonstrated their immense potential to achieve. I hope you are heartened, as I am, to learn of young people striving for personal excellence. I extend my sincere congratulations to Team Inland

and thank them for their great team spirit.●

HONORING WESTERN KENTUCKY NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate five seniors within the region of West Kentucky, who have been recognized as National Merit Semifinalists. Their recent national recognition has given Kentucky reason to be proud.

The semifinalists are Mary Broadbent from Paducah Tilghman High School, Kyle Brockman from Heath High School, Sara Chen from Tilghman High School, Allison Crawford from Lone Oak High School, Callie Dowdy from Murray High School, Nicholas Ledgerwood from Heath High School, and Joseph Moore from Graves County High School. These students will go on to compete later this year for status as a National Merit Finalist and possible college scholarships.

I hope that you will join me today in both recognizing and congratulating these five high school seniors in their academic achievement. Their dedication and academic excellence serves as an example and inspiration for students throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I wish them continued success throughout their academic careers.●

RETIREMENT OF KEN BUECHE FROM THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to note the retirement of a Colorado leader: Ken Bueche, executive director of the Colorado Municipal League. On September 30, Ken Bueche is retiring as executive director of the Colorado Municipal League, a statewide association of 265 member cities and towns.

Ken Bueche earned his undergraduate degree from Colorado State University and his J.D. and Masters in Public Administration from the University of Colorado. In 1963, Ken came to CML as a law clerk and by 1974 rose to become the league's executive director, a position he has held now for more than 30 years.

He has been a long-time believer that local governments are closest to the people and often produce the best solutions for local challenges. He has helped lead the way for Colorado municipalities to streamline local tax collections, shore up their pension funds for first responders, and in 1982 launched a feasibility study that led, in 1982, to the establishment of a self-insurance pool that saves tax dollars and provides affordable insurance for cities, towns and special districts.

Ken was the first recipient of the Leo C. Riethmayer Public Administrator of the Year Award from the University of Colorado. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities and is considered one of the

deans of the State municipal league executive directors corps.

Ken and his wife, Bernice, have five children and four grandchildren. Finally, after more than 30 years of diligent service to the people of Colorado, touching virtually every one of their lives, he will be able to delve back into the joys of his family.

I wish him all the best in his future, for he has given Colorado's cities and towns his very best for over three decades. He has been lauded as "a quiet Colorado legend," and he will be missed by all those who have worked alongside him.●

CONGRATULATING PHELPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate two outstanding Kentucky schools of distinction. Phelps Elementary School of Phelps and St. Raphael the Archangel of Louisville are recipients of the 2005 Schools of Distinction Award. This honor is presented nationally to 20 schools, of kindergarten through 12th grade, which have demonstrated exceptional commitment to achievement and innovation in education.

Phelps Elementary School and St. Raphael the Archangel were selected from more than 3,000 participating schools nationwide. Both schools were chosen as winners based on merit in each of 10 categories: overall academic achievement, literacy, science, mathematics, teamwork, leadership, collaboration, professional development, technical excellence and technical innovation. Phelps Elementary School was recognized for outstanding science achievement while St. Raphael the Archangel was recognized for outstanding professional development.

For their efforts the two schools will each be rewarded with a \$10,000 cash grant along with their school representatives receiving an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC, to participate in an awards ceremony. These two schools represent the best in educational excellence and innovation. It is truly an honor to commend Phelps Elementary School and St. Raphael the Archangel as two of the finest schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the report containing the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission pursuant to sections 2903 and 2914 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510, 104 Stat. 1810, as amended. That report includes changes referenced in errata sheets submitted to me by the Commission, including the enclosed errata sheets dated September 8, September 9, September 12, and September 13, 2005.

I note that I am in receipt of a letter from Chairman Principi, dated September 8, 2005, regarding a district court injunction then in effect relating to the Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Chairman Principi's letter states that, as a result of that injunction, "you should consider the portion of Recommendation 85 . . . that recommends realignment of the Connecticut 103rd Fighter Wing withdrawn from the Commission's report." The Chairman's letter further states that "[i]f the court's injunction is later vacated, reversed, stayed, or otherwise withdrawn, it is the intent of the Commission that the entirety of the recommendation be a part of the Commission's report." On September 9, 2005, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit granted a stay of the district court's injunction. Because the injunction is no longer in effect, Recommendation 85 in its entirety is part of the Commission's report.

I certify that I approve all the recommendations contained in the Commission's report.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 15, 2005.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 276. An act to revise the boundary of the Wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota.

At 4:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3768. An act to provide emergency tax relief for persons affected by Hurricane Katrina.