

In no area has her able hand been more evident than health care. Before her appointment as chief of staff, Trish served as chief health adviser to Senator HATCH. In that capacity, she was his lead staffer in the creation of the Children's Health Insurance Program which today provides health coverage to more than 6 million poor children. She was a leader, too, in improving the work of the Food and Drug Administration in enhancing the safety and efficacy of prescription drugs and food. The Public Health Service is a stronger agency because of Trish's able work.

Most of all, she has been a trusted adviser and friend to so many of us. It was always clear where Trish stood on a question, and she always had clear reasons for her views. Everyone who worked with her respected her for her wisdom, judgment and determination to succeed. Her subtle humor and great spirit got us through many very difficult negotiations.

Trish, we love you and we will miss you and wish you well in the next adventure.

TRIBUTE TO RETA LAFORD

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am proud to announce the recent appointment of my legislative fellow for 2007, Ms. Reta LaFord, to the position of Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Coronado National Forest in New Mexico and Arizona. Reta has been invaluable in my office throughout this past year, specializing in Native-American and natural-resource issues. Her 20 years of experience working for the Forest Service in Montana and other parts of the West provided me with greater expertise related to how the Federal Government can successfully work with the tribes and other stakeholder groups on critical land management issues. She has particular sensitivity to the cultural concerns of the tribes in the West, and the USDA Forest Service will indeed gain from her knowledge and understanding as the Federal Government works with tribal governments in the Coronado National Forest to resolve important resource management challenges. Reta's diligence and thoroughness for the projects she manages will bring her tremendous success in this next chapter of her career.

I wish her the very best and thank her for her devoted service to the great state of Idaho during 2007. She will be missed in my office.

THE EAGLES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have had the privilege of attending performances by the Eagles, and I have enjoyed a long friendship with Don Henley and the members of the band.

I talked with Don recently about their new double-disc set "Long Road Out of Eden" and how they came about making it. We also talked about the last impromptu performance of the Eagles I attended, which was at Camp

David at a farewell party for President Bill Clinton, who was leaving office within 48 hours. As always, they were superb.

I have listened so many times to their music while traveling, at my home in Vermont, and in my office, and I thought my colleagues may benefit from the transcript of an interview Don Henley recently had with CNN. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (CNN).—It may have been 28 years since the last Eagles studio album—yes, "The Long Run" came out in 1979—but, in terms of sales, it's as if the famed band has never left.

The group's new CD, the double-disc set "Long Road Out of Eden," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard album charts with more than 700,000 copies sold in its first week. This—despite its being available only at Wal-Mart.

That relationship with America's biggest merchant has also raised eyebrows. Wal-Mart's reputation does not seem to dovetail with the interests of the Eagles, particularly the band's Don Henley, an outspoken environmentalist.

In a rare interview, Henley addressed those concerns, along with the idea of patriotism, the changing music business, and why "Long Road" may be the group's last album.

CNN's Denise Quan spoke to Henley at the Country Music Association awards last week, and said that Henley was a "true Southern gentleman," ending the interview by sending the crew on its way with plates of mashed potatoes, corn and biscuits.

CNN. Don Henley, congratulations on the first-week sales of this album. I think it exceeded everyone's expectations.

HENLEY. More than 700,000 in this country. And I'm told it has sold 3 million worldwide. So we're delighted.

CNN. Somewhere, Kanye West is quaking in his boots, I would imagine.

HENLEY. I doubt it. (Laughs)

CNN. You made us wait 28 years for this new CD.

HENLEY. Yeah. Well, we don't like to rush into things.

CNN. I was surprised when it was announced you had gone with a Wal-Mart deal exclusively. Why did you do that?

HENLEY. Our deal with the major label expired several years ago, and we just decided we wanted to try something new. . . . Everybody's been calling for a new paradigm in the record industry. Some people have gone to the Internet and haven't had a lot of success with that.

Some people have decided to go with the indie labels, who are mostly distributed by the major labels. Some people have signed with major coffee companies with varying degrees of success.

So Wal-Mart came to us, and they made us a really good offer. And they told us about their green initiative, and how they're trying to make their company more ecologically responsible. And we were impressed by their programs in that regard, and what they're trying to do. And a lot of our fans are customers of Wal-Mart, so we thought it was a good fit.

CNN. There are two discs in "Long Road Out of Eden." One disc is full of romantic ballads with those harmonies the Eagles are known for, and the other disc is full of satirical, witty, kind of biting—

HENLEY. (Interrupts) Thank you. Thank you for not using the word "cynical." (Laugh) Which has become a real cliché.

Protest songs are an old tradition that seems to be coming back now. People writing about government has been going on since the Middle Ages. . . . But to hear some journalists tell it, this is like it's never been done before, and it's outrageous!

If people don't agree with us, they can hit the skip button. We are ticked off about some things, but we also do some of it with humor. People seem to miss our humor. A lot. It seems to go (brushes side of his head with his hand).

CNN. The Eagles have long been associated with the country sound—only you brought the rock element to it when you first appeared on the scene.

HENLEY. Yeah, yeah.

CNN. But your politics are different than a lot of people in Nashville, who are more conservative than I would say you are.

HENLEY. Yeah. Well, Nashville is changing. Nashville is not nearly as conservative as it used to be.

CNN. People just don't talk about it, perhaps.

HENLEY. It's just like you don't talk about religion and politics. This country was founded on rebellion. We believe that we are patriotic. We believe that everyone has the right to speak out. In fact, we believe that it's unpatriotic not to speak out.

Lord knows, we've been criticized enough during our career. When we were younger, (adopts Bugs Bunny voice) it hurt our widdle feeewings. But now we have no feelings! We had them removed. Surgically. This is probably the last Eagles album that we'll ever make. So we decided to just say whatever we felt like saying. And let the chips fall where they may.

CNN. But doesn't the success of this album spur you to make more music? Obviously, people want to hear it.

HENLEY. I can't sit here and tell you for certain that there will never be another Eagles album, but we got 20 songs on this album. You know, we got a lot of things off our chest, so to speak.

I don't know if everybody's going to want to do another one. If we do a world tour, that'll take at least two years. We're all pushing 60. Well, some of us are 60. . . .

Anyway, we'll see. But we all have some solo plans still. I still have a contract with a major label for a couple of solo albums. I think parenting is one of the highest things on our agenda right now. We all have young children. So making another album is not our first priority right now.

CNN. It seems like you've mellowed quite a bit. Is it fatherhood that's changed you, or perhaps just turning 60?

HENLEY. I think we've all mellowed in this group. I think having children was really good for all of us. And you supposedly get mellow with age. However, as some of the songs will indicate, we're not too mellow. (Pauses)

CNN. What are you thinking?

HENLEY. I hate that word "mellow," actually. We've been saddled with that word since the very beginning of our career, you know. It has something to do with Southern California. I wish they would find a new word. We're either "mellow" or we're "cynical." They can't make up their minds. It's sort of a contradiction.

CNN. But I think you've been sort of a contradiction. Certainly an enigma to a lot of people.

HENLEY. Well, good! (Laughs) Yeah, well, this band is a contradiction. This album is. But life is a contradiction, isn't it? There are good things, and there are bad things going on in the world simultaneously. There's love and hate. There's war and peace. There are all kinds of things happening at the same time. And so that's reflected on this album, I think.

CNN. So how are you guys all getting along these days?

HENLEY. The same. (Laughs)

CNN. For better or worse?

HENLEY. All that stuff has been exaggerated. You ask any band if they get along all the time, and they will tell you, "Of course not." But we get along, I'd say, as well as any band does.

There's something we've created called the Eagles that's more important than any one of us individually. And we serve that. You know, we call it "The Mothership." We can all do this, that and the other, but we always come back to the Mothership. It's something that we all built together.

And all this stuff about fighting in the band, and brawling, and fistfights and all that stuff has been grossly exaggerated. When it gets reprinted, and our publicist says, "Well, where'd you get that information," they invariably say, "I read it on the Internet"—as if the Internet were some source of truth! The Internet is no more accurate than the New York Post, you know.

(Looks straight into the camera lens) Put that in! (Laughs)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CARROLL COLLEGE FIGHTING SAINTS FOOTBALL TEAM

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a group of hard working student athletes from my hometown who continue to make history.

This past Saturday, on a mud soaked field in Savannah, TN, the Carroll College Fighting Saints football team claimed their fifth National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championship in the past six seasons. The Fighting Saints overcame the weather and a tough squad from the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota to prevail with a 17 to 9 victory.

Carroll College is a private, Catholic college in my hometown of Helena, MT. Carroll boasts an enrollment of about 1,500 students and is known around the country for its award-winning academic and preprofessional programs. Carroll is particularly strong in premedical, engineering, and nursing programs.

The Saints enjoy great support from the community of Helena and from folks all across Big Sky country. Fans pack Nelson Stadium on the Carroll campus each Saturday when there is a home game. Rain, snow, sub-zero temperatures—nothing will stop the Carroll faithful from coming out to cheer on their beloved Saints. I always look forward to being a part of the crowd whenever I can. The student cheering section known as the "Carroll Crazy's" joins with parents and community members to create an atmosphere that is so energetic on game day you would think you were at a much larger school.

Like hard working folks all across Montana I value my money, but I was so confident that Carroll would be victorious in the title game that I made a little wager with my good friend from South Dakota, Senator Tim Johnson. The winner gets some delicious buffalo

steaks my staff and I look forward to enjoying them. A special thanks to Senator JOHNSON for being such a good sport.

In the title game the Saints were led by running back Gabe Le, who slogged through the mud to pick up 116 hard-fought yards and scored Carroll's only two touchdowns on the day. For his efforts Le, a sophomore from Hayden, ID, was named the offensive player of the game. Le started the season as a backup but found his way into the starting lineup and rushed for over 100 yards in each of Carroll's four victories in the playoffs. The Carroll defense rose to the occasion and slowed down Sioux Falls' high-flying offense. Hard hitting linebacker Owen Koeppen, a junior from Florence, MT, took the honors as defensive player of the game. Koeppen has also been named to the 2007 American Football Coaches Association NAIA All-America Team.

The 2007 edition of the Fighting Saints was particularly dominant. They finished the season a perfect 15-0, running their record over the past 6 years to an astounding 79 to 6. The squad didn't surrender a touchdown until the eighth game of the season and gave up an average of less than five points per game. Carroll outscored their opponents by a combined total of 370 to 72.

Head football coach Mike Van Diest, a native of East Helena, came home in 1999 to coach the Saints. In addition to the five national titles, the Saints have won eight straight Frontier Conference championships and made it to the semifinal round of the NAIA playoffs seven times under his direction. Van Diest is not only a fantastic coach who has built a winning football program; he is an even better person, husband, and father. Mike has taught his players many life lessons along the way. He preaches the importance of getting a quality education, the value of teamwork, and the need to give back to the community. This embodies the service mission of Carroll College and the school's motto, "Not for school but for life." Coach Van Diest has a lifetime of respect and appreciation for the Carroll standard and tradition of excellence and the college is truly blessed to have him.

All of Carroll's athletic programs have enjoyed great success as of late. This fall the women's soccer team won the first ever Frontier Conference Championship and claimed their first ever victory at the NAIA national tournament. The men's and women's basketball team and the volleyball team have also won numerous conference championships in recent years and have represented the school proudly in regional and national tournaments. This record of excellence can be attributed to the fine student athletes that come to Carroll from towns small and large all across Montana and the Northwest. These individuals put it all on the line not only on the playing fields and courts but also in the class-

room. I appreciate and admire this tradition of excellence in both athletics and academics. Many athletes achieve honor roll status and go on to experience success in their respective fields of study. The dedicated coaches and their staff have nurtured and helped these athletes to grow by putting in countless hours throughout the year to prepare for their respective seasons. Athletic director Bruce Parker also deserves recognition as he has helped to build and oversee the success of Carroll athletics.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the president of Carroll College, Dr. Tom Trebon, whose leadership and dedication have made Carroll the highly regarded institution that it is. I look forward to cheering on the Saints again in 2008 as they begin their quest for an unprecedented sixth national title. I know they will make Montana proud.●

TRIBUTE TO FORT CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the Fort Campbell Varsity football team from Fort Campbell, KY. On December 8, 2007, the Fort Campbell High School Varsity football team won the Class 2-A State Championship in Louisville, KY.

For the young men on this team, this is not just a trophy; it is an affirmation that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. To accomplish this goal the members not only have to juggle long practices and games, but they continue to achieve academic excellence. Not only are these young men excellent athletes and students, but they pride themselves in giving back to their community for all the support they have received by doing community service, fundraising, and school public relations.

Fort Campbell, KY, is proud to be home to the 101st Airborne Division and 160th Special Operations Airborne Division. Many of the players on the Fort Campbell Falcons have loved ones currently serving our Nation abroad. I am confident that these loved ones would be proud of what the Falcons have accomplished this season.

The citizens of Fort Campbell, KY, are fortunate to have the 2007 Class 2-A State Champions and families living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I am very proud of the accomplishments these young men have made. I would like to congratulate the members of the Fort Campbell High School Varsity football team for their success. But, also, I want to congratulate their peers, coaches, teachers, administrators, and dedicated parents for the support and sacrifices they have made to help the Fort Campbell High School football team make their dreams a reality.●