

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.