CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
November 17, 1999

If you're already in your senior year and haven't started thinking about college yet, of course, after you are accepted at a college you certainly have the opportunity to visit before you make your decision.

BE YOURSELF

When you're applying to college you certainly want to put your best foot forward and present an accurate and compelling case for admission. But above all things, remember to be yourself.

Suppose, if by some miracle, you actually were able to gussy up your application and essays to come across as a person or convincingly act out a role in an interview. Would the college be accepting the wrong person? More practically, it just often doesn't work to try to be someone else. Pho- niness is difficult to maintain, and in most cases it's transparent.

This also means that the application form that you complete should be your own work. Relax; take the task seriously; do the best you can and don't forget: Parents, teach- ers and consultants who have five years of hands-on experience with applications leave very visible fingerprints.

THE INTERVIEW PROCESS

Colleges generally do not require inter- views, but, if available, they provide an oppor- tunity to learn more about a school and to supplement your written application.

If you have an interview with an alumni volunteer, remember: They are not decision makers. Their task is to collect information and pass it on. They can be very good or very bad. Confession: Whatever they report to their alma maters will be taken with a full shaker of salt. Their views will not outweigh the record you have built over time, the evaluations of people who have seen you in a class context or your own words on your application.

Still, alumni interviews can help uncover or reinforce strengths and corroborate the profile that appears on the written application file. Again, be yourself, and be prepared for a variation of the inevitable final inter- view question: "

- What is the one thing more anything else you would like to ask me?"

Also, if you're wondering about what to wear to an interview, the acceptable range of attire is very broad. On matters of dress, and all such questions about your application, let your own judgment be your guide.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT OTHER APPLICANTS

It is simply not competitive that somebody else in your school or your neighborhood is com- peting with you for a spot that they might take away your space at a college that you want to attend.

At the very most selective colleges you are not competing against the person sitting next to you in a classroom, you're competing against the national pool of applicants.

In colleges that are less selective, if you make a compelling case that satisfies the re- quirements, you have a very good chance of being accepted. Your case for acceptance is not diminished, it is not less compelling if other qualified candidates in your community are accepted.

In any event, know that any information you have about other candidates for accept- ance at the college you have visited or the college you may be interested in pursuing can be used for comparison. WhatDon't you want to have some say in the matter? Before you make your decision, you must make a wrong decision.

THE TRUTH

What is the truth? The truth is that you need to be very helpful in eliminating college choices. They also can assist your campaign to match your preferences with opportunities to learn more about a school and to supplement your written application.

THE END

The truth about the college application process is that it can be more than an opportunity to learn more about a school and to supplement your written application. It can be a satisfying inventory of positives and promote honest self-evaluation of how you want to grow or change or improve.

The application process doesn't have to be nerve-racking. If you only apply to schools that really turn you on, then you really don't have to worry about being accepted to the wrong place.

In the unlikely event that you do not gain acceptance to any of your favorite schools, maybe you should take another year and do something that interests you or prepare yourself to reapply to colleges after spending some time better equipping yourself for college.

The dirty little secret is that there simply is no single school that will make or break your future.

BE A 'SMART SHOPPER'

You are in the market for one of the most expensive, most valuable things you will ever acquire; a college education.

Have you talked to people who have recently attended the colleges that you are considering? What have you read about the colleges? Have you visited colleges that you are seriously considering, alone, without your family?

The traditional family summer tour of col- leges is a nice starting point and often can be very helpful in eliminating college choices. But in terms of getting a good feel for what’s it's like to be a student on campus during a term, there is only so much you can learn by listening to the monkeys and mortar from the outside of empty buildings, while trying to act as if you are not actually part of your family encourage—how embarrassing.

Think about the fun you are going to have if you enroll at a school where you're going to have to try, get on your own, to the few colleges that most interest you. Bring a sleeping bag, ar- range to stay, if you can, in the dorm room of a friend who graduated from your home area high school. Attend class, find out how bad the food is in the dining hall, attend an athletic event or concert, go read, in the library and work on some home- work in the midst of other students doing the same thing.

If you have been accepted to several other colleges, make a list of schools that make sense for you. Be liberated in the idea that you can't make a wrong decision. You don't have to worry about being accepted to any of your favorite schools, then you really don't have to worry about being accepted to the wrong school.

Paying for college can be very expensive. Whether or not you receive scholarships, take out loans, or get a part-time job, it's likely your college education is going to cost a lot. Talk this over with your family and determine your realistic options.

In the end, after you care fully weigh the different factors that are important to you, it's probably going to involve a gut reaction. Trust your own instincts. Make up your mind and then get excited about it. Also make sure to thank your parents, other family members, teachers and advisers.

AND, FINALLY

I'm not a professional admissions officer or an educator. I don't know any particulars about you or your situation. I just suggest you think about the questions raised.

Don't let hopes about college become a black cloud over the best year of high school. Oh, either white or manila envelopes are fine, but don't forget the postage.

COMMENDING PAULA DUGGAN

Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. President, I would like to commend Paula Duggan who is retiring after 13 years as a senior policy analyst at the Northeast-Midwest Institute. She has been instru- mental on a variety of labor market, education, and fiscal federalism issues.

Paula, for instance, was the key force behind labor market information pro- visions within the Workforce Prepared- ness Act, and she has worked diligently to ensure that the law is well imple- mented. She was one of the first ana- lysts to make the connection between worker education and business productivity. And she has written numerous reports explaining how federal alloca- tion formulas are structured and how federal funds are distributed among the states.

I have benefitted from Paula's expertise and experience in my capacities as chair- man of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and as co-chair of the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition. Paula consistently has provided unbiased and insightful research that has advanced bipartisan ef- forts to protect, in behalf of this region and the nation. As she begins her well-earned retirement, Mr. President, I again want to thank Paula Duggan for her fine work.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BOBBY BOSS

Mr. CLELAND, Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great American institution and its leader. The American Legion Barrett-Davis-Watson Post
HENRI TERMEER PRESENTED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BOSTON’S GOLDEN DOOR AWARD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate Henri Termeer on receiving the Golden Door Award from the International Institute of Boston. I also congratulate Henri for recently being sworn in as a United States citizen—November 20.

As chairman, chief executive officer and president of Genzyme Corporation, one of the largest biotechnology companies in the world, Henri is renowned as a pioneer in the industry. He serves on the board of directors of both the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the industry’s national trade association, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a national pharmaceutical trade organization.

It is very fitting, indeed, that Henri was honored with the Golden Door Award, which is presented to US citizens of foreign birth who have made outstanding contributions to American society. Henri is a native of the Netherlands, and in recent years he has received numerous honors such as the Anti-Defamation League’s Torch of Liberty Award and the Governor’s New American Appreciation Award. He was also recently inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Throughout his career in biotechnology, Henri has been a strong advocate for the responsibility of industry and government to make life-saving drug treatments available to all people in need, regardless of their economic status or geographic location. Under Henri’s leadership, Genzyme has worked diligently over the years to make this vision a reality.

In addition to his commitment to patients, Henri is also a leader in promoting educational opportunities for minorities. Since 1995, he has been a director of the Biomedical Science Careers Project, which provides corporate scholarships for outstanding minority high school students. In May 1999, the group presented Henri with highest honor, the Hope Award.

Henri’s extensive record of public service includes his role as a director of the Massachusetts Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, as a trustee and vice-chairman of the Boston Museum of Science, and as a member of the Massachusetts Council on Economic Growth and Technology.

In receiving the Golden Door award, Henri joins a distinguished list of previous recipients including Arthur Fleischner, the famed former conductor of the Boston Pops; Jean Mayer, the eminent nutritionist, educator, and former president of Tufts University; and An Wang, the founder of Wang Labs.

I commend Henri Termeer for this well-deserved award for his new American citizenship. Massachusetts is proud of him, and I congratulate him for his many impressive contributions to our Nation.

DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, most unfortunately it appears unlikely that the House and Senate conferees will be able to reach agreement this year on a multi-year bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. I am bitterly disappointed at Congress’ inability to act on this legislation because of a number of parliamentary budget fights that ignore the dire need to pass this bill. Yet one of my most prominent disappointments is the likelihood that Congress’ efforts to amend the Death on the High Seas Act will fall by the wayside in the short term. We will be forced to postpone out efforts to make damage recovery fair for all family members of aviation accident victims who have died.

The Death on the High Seas Act is a 1920’s-era law that was put in place to help compensate the wives of sailors who died at sea. The law allows survivors to recover pecuniary damages, or the lost wages of their relatives on board, and non-pecuniary damages, such as for pain and suffering, or to seek punitive damages.

Despite its benevolent inception, the Death on the High Seas Act has been used to limit the recovery of damages among the families of airline passengers whose lives have been lost over international waters. The family members of those who died on TWA Flight 800 and EgyptAir Flight 990, for instance, will not be able to seek the same compensation that they would be entitled to if these accidents had occurred over land. The parents of children killed in these accidents cannot sustain a legal claim for damages, since they do not derive their benefit from the family breadwinner. That is an inequity and an unintended consequence that we need to fix.

As I said earlier, Congress intended to fix these problems in the context of the FAA reauthorization bill, yet negotiations have stalled for unrelated reasons. Consequently, I want to pledge every effort to move Death on the High Seas Act legislation independently, as soon as possible next year.

The Commerce Committee will hold additional hearings on this issue as soon as Congress reconvenes in 2000. I will work with my colleagues to ensure that legislation to limit the application of the Death on the High Seas Act to aviation accidents moves as quickly as possible through Congress. I believe it enjoys enormous support within Congress. At the very least, it should not be bogged down in unrelated controversies.

The families of aviation accident victims over international waters have waited far too long for Congress to