Nomination of John J. Easton, Jr., To Be an Assistant Secretary of Energy

July 2, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate John J. Easton, Jr., of Vermont, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Domestic and International Energy Policy. This is a new position.

Since 1989, Mr. Easton has served at the Department of Energy as General Counsel, 1991–present; and as Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Energy Emergencies, 1989–91. Prior to joining the Department of Energy, Mr. Easton served with the law firm of Miller, Eggleston and Rosenberg, Ltd., 1987–89. Mr. Easton was twice elected attorney general of Vermont and served in that position from 1981 to 1985.

Mr. Easton graduated from the University of Colorado (B.S., 1964), and Georgetown University (J.D., 1970). He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1968. He was born June 16, 1943, in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Easton currently resides in Arlington, VA.

Nomination of Kent N. Brown To Be United States Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia

July 2, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate Kent N. Brown, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Georgia.

Since 1990, Mr. Brown has served as political adviser to the Supreme Allied Commander, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Casteau, Belgium. He has also served as: office director of the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs at the Department of State, 1988–90; senior political adviser for the U.S. Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions and Conventional Forces in Europe Delegations in Vienna, 1984–88; a student at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Defense College in Rome, 1983–84; Consular and political officer at the American Embassy in Moscow, 1980–83; and international affairs officer for the Bureau of European Affairs at the Depart-
Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters on Departure for Camp David, Maryland

July 2, 1992

The President. I have two subjects I want to address very briefly before we leave here.

First, on the unemployment extension bill. This afternoon the House passed an unemployment bill, and the Senate is expected to act shortly; it may have already moved. But the bill that came out of the House-Senate conference is a good one. It took the best of the House and Senate positions. It’s paid for, and it does not violate the budget agreement. And it preserves the fiscal discipline that is so vital to our economic recovery. There are no new taxes in the bill. It doesn’t raise unemployment taxes or raise the unemployment wage-base. Most of the objectionable policies were dropped from it. The extra benefits will give unemployed Americans as much as 52 weeks of unemployment insurance. This is an important safeguard for workers who still can’t find jobs as the economy continues to grow. And I’m glad that we were able to work it out with the Congress in the last couple of days.

The current program runs out on Saturday. I want to make sure that people keep getting these extended benefits. Therefore, I will sign this bill as soon as it reaches my desk. And I might say at the end of this statement, once again, I was very pleased to see the Fed move to reduce the rates because clearly that will have an economic stimulus that will help get this country back to work real fast.

The second subject: I have just concluded another meeting on AIDS. And with me is Bishop Swing, who ministers to many AIDS patients, is in the forefront of the struggle against AIDS. He comes from San Francisco, a friend to Barbara and to me. Also there was Dr. Burt Lee, my own personal physician but who’s had an active role in AIDS—he was on the AIDS Commission before he came here; Mary Fisher, who is personally involved with the disease; Dr. Fauci, one of our Nation’s leading researchers out at NIH. And I mentioned, I think, Dr. Sullivan of HHS.

But we met in there, and I was asking them, how can I better convey the concern that I feel, and what can I do better to convey what we are doing? And I believe that I must have the Nation know that we’re all enmeshed in the pain that people feel about this disease, whether they have the disease, afflicted by it, or whether they’re people who just want to help.

I think it’s important to emphasize that progress has been made. And we listened to Dr. Fauci talk about the progress that’s been made, the hope that he and the other great researchers and scientists in this country have for progress on the vaccines, for example; the fact there are three different ways now to try to contain this disease.

And then the third point is the determination that we all feel that we must win this battle. And the bishop and Dr. Fauci pointed out to me something that I do know and perhaps have not articulated it, and that is that the United States has a key leadership role here. It’s a worldwide problem. And our science is on the cutting edge. Our researchers aren’t the only ones doing the job, but they are doing a superb job. I just want others around the world to know that we share their concerns, and we want to share our science with anyone we possibly can help. And so it was that area. We talked a little bit, Lou did, Lou Sullivan brought up the point he makes about the ADA bill where we are opposed to discrimination. And that bill, that forward civil rights legis-