

The President. No, I'm not, so I can't have a comment.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. I'm going to go see them next week and try to convince them that—[inaudible]—and I hope that I can. I have a very high regard for them. I'm going to see them next

week. Ambassador Albright and General Shalikashvili are going ahead of me just in the next few days. So we're going to work very hard with them and see what we can do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Nomination for Ambassador to New Zealand and Western Samoa *January 5, 1994*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Josiah Beeman to be the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and to Western Samoa.

"Josiah Beeman's career has been marked by both accomplishment and concern," said the

President. "He will serve our country well as Ambassador."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Director of the United States Geological Survey *January 5, 1994*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Gordon P. Eaton to be the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

"Gordon Eaton is a highly respected earth scientist with a strong understanding of the

workings of the USGS," said the President. "I believe he will do a fine job as Director."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Statement on the Death of Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. *January 6, 1994*

The Nation mourns the loss of our beloved former Speaker of the House, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr.

As U.S. House Speaker, Tip O'Neill was the Nation's most prominent, powerful, and loyal champion of working people. He loved politics and government because he saw how politics and government could make a difference in people's lives. And he loved people most of all—his neighbors, his constituents, and his family.

Last fall, Tip was generous to me with his advice and his stature when he joined our effort to win approval of the North American Free

Trade Agreement. His stand moved me, because working people had been the cause of his long and colorful career, and in his heart he knew that more open trade would mean a better quality of life for working Americans.

On a day of sadness for my family and Tip's, Hillary and I wish his wife, Millie, and their family our deepest sympathies for a husband and a father now gone and for a beautiful life well lived.

NOTE: The related proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.