

Listen, thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 5:46 p.m. in the school gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Pastor Darrell Rice, chairman,

Mount Paran Christian School Board, who acted as moderator for the session. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on House of Representatives Action on Energy Legislation

May 27, 1992

The President is pleased that the House of Representatives, in passing H.R. 776, today made progress toward adopting a sound national energy strategy.

This legislation implements several key elements of the national energy strategy the President presented to Congress in 1991. It promotes energy efficiency and increases the use of renewable and alternative energy while providing much needed alternative minimum tax relief for independent oil and gas producers. This bill would also foster competition in wholesale electricity markets, reform the regulation of natural gas pipe-

lines, and streamline the nuclear powerplant licensing process.

Although pleased with the progress, the President noted that the House bill needlessly locks up some of America's best prospects for domestic oil and natural gas production and restricts State prorationing authority, thereby interfering with the ability of States to properly regulate production of their own gas resources. While there is much work to be done, the President believes this bill forms a welcome bipartisan basis for moving to conference.

Appointment of Eric D.K. Melby as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

May 27, 1992

The President today announced the appointment of Eric D.K. Melby as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for International Economic Affairs on the National Security Council staff.

Mr. Melby has served as Director for International Economic Affairs on the NSC staff since September 1987. Prior to joining the NSC staff, he served as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs (1985–87) and with the Inter-

national Energy Agency in Paris (1980–85). He has also worked for the Agency for International Development and was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines.

Mr. Melby received his B.A. from Haverford College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University. He is married to Pamela Tripp Melby and has two daughters, Alexandra and Sarah.