Message on National African-American History Month
February 1, 1993

This February we rediscover, celebrate, and
honor the history and achievements of African-
Americans during National African-American History Month.

In 1993, I am proud to recognize that more
African-Americans serve in the President’s Cabi-
ett than ever before in the history of our coun-
try. We are nearing the day when we will have
built a new home for America, a home where
all Americans will have a place at the table.

Understanding our past makes us aware of
how far we have come and how far we have
to go. Last month, for the first time in many
years, our National Archives displayed for the
public the Emancipation Proclamation. That
document, signed by President Abraham Lincoln
on January 1, 1863, launched the beginning of
a life of freedom for millions of African-American
people.

For several months last year, individuals and
groups of citizens had been writing to the Na-
tional Archives to inquire whether the historic
document would be exhibited over the new year
holiday in honor of its anniversary. After consid-
ering the matter, the National Archives decided
to arrange an exhibit.

The fragile document was shown in our Na-
ton’s Capital for five days adjacent to the origin-
al Charters of Freedom—the Declaration of
Independence, the Constitution of the United
States, and the Bill of Rights. The exhibit re-
minded America of how liberty had once been
denied to a particular segment of our popu-
lation. The diverse backgrounds of the people
in those lines each day, however, showed how
the history of African-Americans touches all of
us.

The public response was overwhelming. People
came from all walks of life, with their chil-
dren or their friends, from every corner of our
country, to see for themselves the pieces of
paper that meant for millions the difference be-
tween slavery and freedom. Each night at clos-
ing time, the National Archives had to extend
the visiting hours to accommodate people who
had waited in line for nearly three hours. In-
deed, the efforts of the few citizens that gave
birth to the exhibit brought to life for thousands
the story of freedom in America.

I invite all Americans to rediscover that story
and others as our Nation observes National Afri-
can-American History Month.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Nomination for President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the
United States
February 1, 1993

The President today announced his intention
to nominate Kenneth D. Brody as President and
Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the
United States.

“I’m very pleased to make this announcement
today,” said the President. “Having someone
with Ken Brody’s experience and knowledge at
the helm of the Export-Import Bank will help
to ensure the orderly flow of trade and the
promotion of American exports, a vital part of
our Nation’s economy.”

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