

By: Representative Clark

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S APPOINTMENT OF DR.  
2 ROD PAIGE, SR., AS EDUCATION SECRETARY.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Rod Paige, Sr., President George W. Bush's  
4 choice for Secretary of the U.S. Office of Education, is a native  
5 of Lawrence County, Mississippi; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Paige has been Superintendent of the Houston  
7 Independent School District since 1994, and is credited with  
8 improving performance in the district--the largest in Texas and  
9 the 7th largest school district in America--and making it one of  
10 the best regarded urban school systems in the country; and

11 WHEREAS, before taking the superintendent's job, Dr. Paige  
12 served on the school system's board and as Dean of the College of  
13 Education at Texas Southern University; and

14 WHEREAS, the National Alliance of Black School Educators  
15 named him their Superintendent of the Year, and he was named  
16 outstanding urban educator by the Council of Great City Schools in  
17 1999; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Paige received his basic education in the public  
19 schools in the great State of Mississippi, graduated from Lawrence  
20 County Training School (Monticello, Mississippi) and Jackson State  
21 College (now Jackson State University), earned his master's and  
22 doctoral degrees from Indiana University, taught and coached  
23 football in Mississippi at Sumner Hill High School, Utica Junior  
24 College and Jackson State University; and served as assistant  
25 football coach at the University of Cincinnati and as Athletic  
26 Director and Head Football Coach at Texas Southern University; and

27           WHEREAS, Dr. Paige is one of the longest-serving  
28 superintendents in America and his professional achievements are a  
29 matter of record: was named as one of the twenty most influential  
30 Texans in the September 2000 issue of The Texan Monthly; is  
31 recognized as one of America's foremost authorities on education;  
32 The Education Week newspaper (October 9, 2000) called him "one of  
33 the country's best-known and most highly regarded  
34 superintendents"; has won one of the nation's most prestigious  
35 education awards, the Harold W. McGraw, Jr., Prize in Education  
36 (September 2000); in October 1999 he was named America's most  
37 outstanding urban educator and was awarded the Richard R. Green  
38 Award by the Council of the Great City Schools; was named the  
39 National Superintendent of the Year by the National Alliance of  
40 Black School Educators (November 2000); was named the Texas  
41 nominee for the national Superintendent of the Year by the Texas  
42 Association of School Administrators (November 2000); and in  
43 October 1997, The Oregonian chose him as one of the ten "dream  
44 superintendents." The newspaper chose Dr. Paige after asking  
45 urban-education experts across the country to name the ten best;  
46 and

47           WHEREAS, Dr. Paige has dedicated his life to demonstrating  
48 the potential that can be harnessed on behalf of the children.  
49 Under his leadership the achievement levels of students (in  
50 Houston) have improved over time in every category for every group  
51 of students. In fact, the gap between student groups shrank even  
52 as all groups have improved; and

53           WHEREAS, Dr. Paige credits his parents for his strong belief  
54 in learning and commitment to positive work ethics; his mother was  
55 a teacher and librarian and his father a school administrator in  
56 his early career and later a County Agent with the Cooperative  
57 Extension Service, and his sister, Raygene, is a respected  
58 educator; and

59           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the  
60 professional and civic achievements of this Mississippian who has  
61 brought honor to his family, his community, his school and to his  
62 native State of Mississippi:

63           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
64 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
65 commend President Bush's appointment of Dr. Rod Paige, Sr., as  
66 Secretary of the U.S. Office of Education.

67           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
68 presented to Dr. Paige and his family and be forwarded to members  
69 of Mississippi's congressional delegation.