

By: Representatives Clark, Evans, West

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

1 A RESOLUTION URGING THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND
2 SCHOOLS TO RENEW THE ACCREDITATION OF MARY HOLMES COLLEGE.

3 WHEREAS, Mary Holmes College is fighting for its academic
4 life by facing yet another measure to close the college; and

5 WHEREAS, on April 1, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. in Atlanta, Georgia,
6 at the Hilton Hotel, the Southern Association of Colleges and
7 Schools (SACS) will determine whether the \$229,000.00 budget
8 deficit of Mary Holmes College makes the college unfit for
9 continued accreditation; and

10 WHEREAS, Mary Holmes College is a small, private two-year
11 college located in West Point, Clay County, Mississippi, that was
12 established in 1892 by the Board of Mission for Freedmen of the
13 Presbyterian Church USA as its chief supporter, and it has
14 produced thousands of transfer students for Mississippi colleges
15 and universities; and

16 WHEREAS, if accreditation is not given to the college,
17 financial aid or governmental subsidies cannot be offered to any
18 students and closure of the college would result; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Jackson, the president of the college, is
20 determined to keep the college open, and Alvin O. Chambliss, Jr.,
21 has called on Bud Blakey, counsel for the college, pleading that
22 he be allowed to speak on behalf of his child, an alumnus of Mary
23 Holmes College, and other current and future students of the
24 college; and

25 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives express our support for
26 the continued accreditation of Mary Holmes College:



27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
28 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we urge the
29 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to renew the
30 accreditation of Mary Holmes College.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
32 furnished to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
33 Mary Holmes College and members of the Capitol Press Corps.

