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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1976

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DR. EDWARD AGUIRRE
AS U.S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Saturday, September 18, 1976

9:45 a. m.

The Oval Office

From: Douglas P. Bennett ~~DPA~~

I. PURPOSE

To introduce Dr. Edward Aguirre, your nominee, as the U.S. Commissioner of Education.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

Dr. Aguirre, who is currently the HEW Regional Commissioner of Education, will be the first Hispanic ever to serve as U.S. Commissioner of Education. His experience includes that of a high school teacher, college professor and in the Manpower Administration of the Department of Labor as well as the Department of Education in HEW.

B. Participants:

The President
Dr. Edward Aguirre
Secretary David Mathews
Jim Cannon
Doug Bennett

C. Press Plan:

After meeting with Secretary Mathews and Dr. Aguirre for a few minutes, the press will be invited in for photos and for a short statement from you.



III. TALKING POINTS

1. I am pleased to announce Dr. Edward Aguirre to be U. S. Commissioner of Education. Ed's career includes experience as a high school teacher in the Phoenix, Arizona, School System; as a university professor at San Diego State University; and government experience in the Department of Labor Manpower Administration, as Chairman of the Federal Regional Council in San Francisco, and presently in the Department of HEW where he is the San Francisco Regional Commissioner of Education.
2. We do not need to be reminded of the importance of a good education for our children. Nothing is more important for our future.
3. I believe that our efforts to support elementary and secondary education must start with the recognition that people at the local level are the best judge on how to educate their children.
4. The Federal role is to assure our commitment to equality of opportunity. We place emphasis on those children with special needs.
5. The Federal role should not be at the expense of local control. We should measure educational progress not proficiency at filling out government forms. We need to eliminate red tape and increase local control. That is what I asked the Congress to do last March, but the Congress has not acted.
6. In the area of post secondary education we want to assure that all qualified students can afford to continue their education. We are committed to full funding of the Basic Educational Opportunity Grants program to help achieve that goal. This program gives scholarship aid directly to the students.
7. Our future rests on our ability to teach our children wisely and well. We want our children to admire the strengths of our system while ever striving for a more just and perfect land.
8. Ed, I am delighted you have accepted this great challenge.

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Edward Aguirre, of San Mateo, California, to be U. S. Commissioner of Education. He will succeed Terrell H. Bell who resigned.

Mr. Aguirre is the Regional Commissioner of Education with the U. S. Office of Education in San Francisco, California.

Born on September 14, 1929 in Miami, Arizona, Mr. Aguirre received his B.A. degree in 1952, M.A., in 1958, and Ph.D. degree in 1962, all from Arizona State University. From 1955-1959, Mr. Aguirre was a teacher with the Department of Interior, Phoenix Indian School, in Phoenix, Arizona and from 1959-1963, he was on the faculty of the Phoenix Union High School District in Phoenix.

In 1963, Mr. Aguirre became an Associate Professor at San Diego State University in San Diego, California where he remained for the next six years. From 1969 until 1971, he was Deputy Associate Manpower Administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. and then Regional Manpower Administrator for the Labor Department in San Francisco, California. He served as Regional Director for the Labor Department from 1971-1972 and in 1972 was appointed Chairman of the Federal Regional Council in San Francisco serving until 1973 when he assumed his present post.

Mr. Aguirre is married to the former Deluvina Maldonado and they have two children. They reside in San Mateo, California.