

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 18, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
UPON NOMINATING  
EDWARD AGUIRRE  
AS THE  
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

THE OVAL OFFICE

9:50 A.M. EDT

I am very pleased to announce that I am nominating as the Commissioner of Education Dr. Aguirre. He will succeed Dr. Bell. Dr. Aguirre comes from the Arizona area, Arizona State. He taught school in the public school system of Phoenix, Arizona, went on to San Diego State and was on the faculty there for a number of years and then went to the Department of Labor and then, for the last several years, has been the Regional Director for the Office of Education in San Francisco.

Dr. Aguirre has not only experience and the background, but he firmly believes, as I do, that our approach to elementary and secondary education where we would have a block grant program of \$3 billion 300 million, with money going directly to the local school systems, is the way to relieve bureaucratic red tape and get the teacher and the principal and the administrator working without the heavy hand of Washington bureaucracy dictating the policies at the local school level.

Dr. Aguirre also firmly believes that our approach to the problems of higher education is in the best interest of the students, and with the help of Congress in the next session we hope to achieve real success in spending the money from the Federal Government, but letting the local decisions be made at the local levels.

So, I am very, very pleased, Doctor, that you are going to be our new Commissioner of Education and will be working with Secretary of HEW David Mathews. We think we have a good team.

Congratulations.

END (AT 9:53 A.M. EDT)