

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 157

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94—Relative to former California Congressman Norman Y. Mineta.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 20, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 94, Vasconcellos. Former California Congressman Norman Y. Mineta.

This measure would honor former California Congressman Norman Y. Mineta for his long and distinguished record of public service and professional achievement and congratulate him on his recent appointment by President Clinton to become Secretary of Commerce for the United States of America.

WHEREAS, President Clinton has appointed former California Congressman Norman Y. Mineta to become his new Secretary of Commerce, and he has been confirmed by the United States Senate and sworn in as Secretary of Commerce for the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Mineta thus becomes the first Asian Pacific American to serve as a Cabinet Secretary in the entire history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mineta honorably represented the San Jose-Santa Clara area of Silicon Valley in Congress for 21 years, being first elected in 1974, and reelected 10 times before retiring in 1995, all the while ably and honorably representing the heart of Silicon Valley, the engine of California's prosperity and one of the three premier export regions of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mineta, the son of Japanese immigrants, was taken away as a boy in 1942 with his family to a World War II internment camp for Japanese-Americans in Wyoming, and since then has worked tirelessly and effectively to prevent similar injustices from occurring again; and

WHEREAS, Mineta began his political career as Treasurer of the John Vasconcellos for Assembly Committee in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Mineta was elected to the San Jose City Council in 1967, and then Mayor of San Jose in 1971, becoming the first Asian-American mayor of a major American city; and

WHEREAS, Mineta was the lead sponsor in the United States Congress and was instrumental in passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided an official apology and reparations to Japanese-Americans for government violations of their civil liberties

and constitutional rights in connection with their being sent to World War II internment camps; and

WHEREAS, Mineta's distinguished career in Congress, which included chairmanship of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, earned him a reputation as a strong leader and, in the words of President Clinton, "a highly skilled negotiator in Washington and throughout the world"; and

WHEREAS, Mineta most recently served as an executive with Lockheed Martin and is Chairman and Cofounder of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, a nonprofit organization that encourages Asian Pacific Americans to become more involved in the political process; and

WHEREAS, Mineta's personal history, uncommon talents, his commitment to caring for and including every person in the American dream, and his unwavering commitment to justice and equality for everybody has led to him being called "a living legend in the Asian Pacific American community", and to his becoming an inspiring role model for many Americans of many ancestries; and

WHEREAS, Mineta's appointment brings honor and joy to his family and to his fellow Asian Americans and especially would have delighted his mentor and second father, I.K. Ishimatsu (recently deceased); and

WHEREAS, Mineta's appointment as Secretary of Commerce properly recognizes a long and distinguished career of public service and numerous personal and professional achievements deserving of the highest commendations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California takes great pleasure in honoring former Congressman Norman Y. Mineta for his long and distinguished record of public service and professional achievement, and congratulates him on his recent appointment by President Clinton to become Secretary of Commerce for the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to Secretary Mineta and the author for appropriate distribution.

