

By: Madden

H.C.R. No. 250

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The bedrock of liberty is a free press, and Nate
2 Blakeslee of the *Texas Observer* and Doug Swanson of *The Dallas*
3 *Morning News* exemplify the finest characteristics of responsible,
4 diligent journalism; and

5 WHEREAS, The *Texas Observer* and *The Dallas Morning News* broke
6 the story that led to the complete transformation of the Texas Youth
7 Commission; their revelations of abuses in the West Texas State
8 School brought the entire Texas Legislature to its feet, and their
9 continuous, in-depth reporting fueled the momentum needed to
10 produce a comprehensive legislative reform package; and

11 WHEREAS, Democracy depends on open government, and it is said
12 that the media act as the fourth branch of government; through their
13 reporting, Mr. Blakeslee and Mr. Swanson have indeed contributed to
14 an open and effective democratic process; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby honor Nate "Tex" Blakeslee of the *Texas Observer* and Doug
17 Swanson of *The Dallas Morning News* and extend to them sincere
18 gratitude and best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Mr. Blakeslee and Mr. Swanson as an expression of high
21 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.