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5-29-1979

Agriculture News Release - 1979-05-29

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture

E. De la Garza

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

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ADVANCE FOR RELEASE 6:30 A.M. EDT TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1979

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Kika de la Garza, D-Tex., Chairman of the Department Investigations, Oversight and Research Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, today announced that a public hearing will be held Wednesday, June 13, on a bill to establish a National Cost of Production Board in the Agriculture Department.

The bill (H.R. 1050) was sponsored by Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kans., and 34 other House Members and a similar bill (S. 107) was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Robert Morgan, D-N.C.

The legislation would set up an advisory board, made up mostly of full-time farmers, which would review the Agriculture Department's estimates of the cost of producing farm crops. The board, after making its studies to determine if government cost figures are fair and accurate, would make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture. The recommendations, and the Agriculture Department's actions in response, would be reported to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

"This idea should be explored fully," de la Garza said in announcing the hearings. "Certainly there is a need for accurate Agriculture Department statistics on production costs."

The hearing on H.R. 1050 will be held at 2:00 p.m. EDT, June 13, in Room 1302 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. Anyone interested in testifying should notify Ms. Chris Abram, (202) 225-2171.