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FOR RELEASE: 25 March 1971

92-272

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Every year since I entered the House of Representatives I have had the privilege of serving on the U. S.-Mexico Inter-Parliamentary Union, which meets on alternate years in this country and Mexico for an examination of matters of mutual interest. In the past I have been the Texas border member of the group. This year, I am happy to report, I am being joined by three Texas colleagues and friends: Rep. Jim Wright of Fort Worth, Rep. Henry Gonzalez of San Antonio, and Rep. Abraham Kazen Jr. of Laredo. I know the value of our sessions will be increased as a result of their presence.

~~This group has a special significance to our border area, giving me a chance to explore with Mexican lawmakers the problems and opportunities we face as friendly neighbors. I am always receptive to ideas in this connection and will be glad to receive suggestions from residents of the 15th Congressional District.~~

* * *

~~BUY ONIONS! Throughout the month of March the U. S. Department of Agriculture is assisting South Texas onion producers in a special marketing program for onions through the Plentiful Foods program. The marketing effort, a special "quickie" program to call onions to the attention of the entire food trade, was requested by producers because of large carryovers and an abundant new crop.~~

~~The Department of Agriculture is emphasizing onions in special releases for the press and for radio and television. Grocery stores and public eating places are urged to feature onions and onion dishes in their advertising. The whole purpose of the program, in which the Department is working closely with the South Texas Onion Committee is to expand markets and therefore assist our area.~~

~~Onions go well with many foods, and of course we have the best of the crop in South Texas. My colleagues in the House of Representatives look forward to the samples of South Texas onions I am able to distribute among them from time to time. So forward with the special marketing program.~~

* * *

~~JOB TRAINING A number of South Texans are involved in Department of Labor job training programs. The Department's Manpower Administration has the responsibility for referring youth, especially those from poor families, to manpower training programs, both in institutional training and on-the-job, to help prepare them for employment. Such programs ordinarily are of one year's duration or less and are focused on the need to meet skill shortages in various occupations and on local needs to find~~

employment for its disadvantaged citizens or to prepare them for employment.

I have obtained from the Manpower Administration some interesting information on the scope of these programs in South Texas. One of them is Job Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS) program, which represents a combined effort of the Federal Government and private industry to make job opportunities in business a reality for untrained workers. Under this plan, participating companies hire and train the hard-core unemployed through individual contracts with the Department of Labor. The Manpower Administration reports that nearly 50 business concerns in 10 South Texas cities and towns are participating in the program.

Manpower development and training programs are carried on at Texas Southmost College and in a number of area schools. In this program, too, the primary purpose is to provide training for jobless or under-employed persons in jobs that have skill shortages. Workers can get needed basic education, training in the classroom, on-the-job training which takes place on location at the employer's site, and a combination of institutional and on-the-job training.

Neighborhood Youth Corps programs, under way in several South Texas communities, provides work experience and training for young people between the ages of 14 and 22. They are able to earn money as they get valuable work experience and often training, counseling and remedial education. They use their wages to buy clothes for school, to supplement family incomes, to finance further education, and to gain the self-respect that comes from making one's own way.

Another program, participated in by two counties in the 15th Congressional District, pays needy people for work that improves their communities. It provides steady work at decent pay for chronically unemployed adults, principally older workers.

With all the machines in the world, we still need manpower, both physical and mental, to keep things going. Such programs as these of the Manpower Administration provide both social and economic benefits for our communities.

* * *

IN THE HOSPITAL -- That is where I spent several days after an old tummy started acting up. My mistake was in waiting too long to decide that I really needed to go to the hospital for treatment. Fortunately, it was not a fatal mistake, and it may be that I will profit from the experience. My special thanks to all who expressed concern, your prayers, calls, cards and flowers were a great part of the cure.

* * *

KIKA'S SAYINGS -- Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

* *

VISITORS - Visitors to my office this week were Mr. Michael Adams, Brownsville; Mr. Richard L. Schultz of Cleveland, Ohio formerly of Brownsville; Mr. David Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bassine, Mr. Lloyd M. Hawkins, Mr. Joe H. Ramon, Mr. Sam Risica and Mr. Jim DeBerry, all from Edinburg; Mr. Walter M. Zimmerman and Mr. Terry Smith, both of Kingsville and Mr. Boto P. Adams of La Feria.

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