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## Newsletter - 1971-07-01

E. De la Garza

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FOR RELEASE: 1 July 1971

92-286

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The Fourth of July comes on Sunday this year. Every Sabbath is a good time to go to church. Sunday, July 4, 1971, brings to all Americans a great opportunity to join in thanking God for the independent nation of free men and women that was brought into existence almost two centuries ago. It is a time to remember the eloquent words of John Adams on July 3, 1776:

"... this great anniversary festival ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, and shows, games, sports..."

This year, J. Willard Marriott, a leading member of the U. S. business community, is heading a nationwide "Honor America Day" movement, the grand yet simple purpose of which is to pay tribute to God and country. A letter I have received from Mr. Marriott points out that, inasmuch as Independence Day falls on Sunday, the focal point of the week-end observance appropriately should be the idea of reverence toward the Almighty, combined with thankfulness that we are citizens of this great nation.

The Fourth is a grand and glorious day for all Americans. In times of trouble the flame of freedom should burn brighter than ever in our hearts. So let us come together on this Sunday to worship God and honor America.

\* \* \*

IN SOUTH TEXAS -- Some communities in our area have special events planned for the Independence week-end. Patriotism has never come to be regarded as old-fashioned in South Texas, and I trust it never will. The flag will be flying in front of homes throughout the area. Our churches will be filled with people desiring to express their gratitude to God for the privilege of living in a land where freedom was made possible by the courage and determination of the heroes of Seventy-Six.

I am happy to say I will be in the District during the week-end. Our friends across the border will join in honoring our Independence Day at the annual fair in Reynosa. The Fourth has been officially designated "United States Day" at the fair, and I have been honored being invited as an honor guest to the festivities.

\* \* \*

MEDICAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM -- The House of Representatives has passed a bill to extend for one year the present federal program of student loans and scholarships under the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act and the Nurse Train-

ing Act. This was regarded as emergency legislation, since without its passage the program would come to an end on June 30, close of the fiscal year.

Congress started a program in 1963 for loans for health professions students, in 1964 provided loans for nursing students, and in 1965 included scholarship assistance. The House action simply continues the entire program for another year, giving Congress time to enact more comprehensive legislation in this field.

Medical schools and other health care professions schools have already issued acceptances for the September term, and they must now make commitments of financial aid. Without a clear assurance of aid, many students cannot commit themselves to the financial burden required to attend school. And this is important, because approximately 4,130 first-year medical students will need loan or scholarship aid this fall, and such aid will be needed by some 5,000 students enrolled in other health care professions.

As South Texans know, serious health care personnel shortages exist and continue to increase. According to the best information I can get, our national needs call for 50,000 additional doctors, 150,000 more nurses, and many thousands more of auxiliary health care personnel. We must meet these needs. The loan and scholarship program will help to do that.

\* \* \*

PICNIC TIME -- Continuing my report on the Texas State Society Barbecue, prizes were given for best costumes and whether the participants won a prize or not, through the courtesy of Gil and Susie Weisberg of McAllen everyone wore a very mod and multi-colored bandana -- still being worn to picnics in the Washington area -- and speaking of picnics, they are fun, but a reminder that they call for special care to avoid food poisoning comes from specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. They point out that moderate temperatures offer perfect conditions for rapid reproduction of germs that can cause severe digestive upsets -- and food taken on picnics often stays merely warm, not hot or cold, for several hours. The Department has issued a publication called "Keeping Food Safe". I will be glad to send a copy to any South Texan requesting one.

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HURRICANE WARNING -- How much advance warning can we who live in coastal areas expect when a hurricane threatens? At least 10 to 12 daylight hours, according to the National Weather Service's Hurricane Center. The warning is to be issued 24 hours in advance of the hurricane's predicted movement inland. This allows for the possibility of destructive tides which sometimes precede hurricanes.

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VISITORS -- Visiting my office this week were Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Robertson, Judge Ray Ramon; and Miss Leah Metzenthin, all of Brownsville; Mrs. Raul Garcia and her son Javier, and Mr. Bob Chandler, all of McAllen; Mr. J. H. "Buster" Brown, of Mission; and Mayor Pete Adams, of San Benito.

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