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E. De la Garza

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FOR RELEASE: Thursday, May 6, 1965

89-15

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C.-RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS. The heaviest propaganda I have ever seen is being directed against the constitutional right of the American people to own guns. It looks to me as if much of this propaganda is unrealistic. I can't believe criminals would pay any more attention to anti-gun law than they pay to other laws, so only law-abiding citizens would be penalized by such a law. New York, for instance, has a very tough gun registration law, but the criminals seem to have no trouble getting guns. I think there should be reasonable control over the sale of firearms, but I would have to oppose legislative proposals to infringe on the basic right of U. S. citizens to own them. And I do not believe citizens should have to pay money to keep that right, which is what would happen under a law requiring registration of all guns.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT. Many inquiries have reached me regarding provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which President Johnson signed on April 11. In an effort to be helpful, I have sent to school authorities throughout the 15th District a digest of information about the law. I will be glad to hear from anyone else who would like to receive this information. The law represents the greatest single commitment ever made by the Federal Government for the improvement of education in the elementary and secondary schools of the U. S. The President recently asked for appropriations to carry out the program. No money is yet available, but leaders in educationally deprived communities can start their planning now for participation in the program.

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TRADE WITH MEXICO. The American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico sent representatives to the recent meeting here of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and they had some interesting--and important--things to say about trade between Mexico and the United States, a matter of special interest to our South Texas area. Mexico is now the fifth most important trader with the U. S., and this nation's business concerns now have a \$1.2 billion investment in our neighbor to the south. Mexico will buy about \$1.22 billion in American goods this year. If net receipts are considered, including tourism, about 99.8 cents of every dollar spent in Mexico comes back to the U. S. in goods and services. And if short-term assets for all economic transactions are included, the men from Mexico pointed out, that country spends \$1.04 for every U. S. dollar put into its economy. I am glad to have these facts brought out in Washington.

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