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E. De la Garza

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FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C.--Both Congress and the nation's scientific community appear to be sharply divided over the question of whether to go ahead with the Safeguard anti-ballistic-missile (ABM) system proposed by the President. The Safeguard system is designed to protect U.S. missile sites against surprise attack by enemy missiles. Scientists who oppose the proposed system presented their case in a report which concludes: "The system, even if considerably expanded and upgraded over the years following initial development, cannot perform effectively the missions suggested for it." On the other hand, a report by scientists favoring the ABM says: "Safeguard will 'work' in the sense it is intended to work. It is a 'point' defense. A point defense is easier to achieve than an area defense, since the enemy warhead can be usefully engaged at much closer proximity to its target."

With the nation's top scientists in such clearcut disagreement, it is easy to understand why many members of Congress are having difficulty in making up their minds about this vitally important matter. However, we have to decide, and I, for one, am trying to learn everything I can about the pros and cons regarding deployment of the ABM.

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TWO BILLS--Recently I was shown as having introduced the same bill twice-- Well, two are better than one, but really the facts are we sent one to be introduced and somehow it got lost enroute--so we then introduced another one, and much to our surprise the first one got there also, so the clerk just introduced both and earned me the nickname of "Two Bill Kika." But that's not as bad as the member who passed a bill and it became law, and he had gotten such favorable comments, he introduced it again!

* * * * *

SMUT IN THE MAIL--My bill making it a criminal offense for anyone to mail obscene material to any person under 19 years of age or who is enrolled at any public or private elementary school has been referred to a House Judiciary Subcommittee for action-- and action is exactly what I will be urging.

Meanwhile, I have obtained from the Post Office Department copies of a pamphlet explaining how, under an existing law, a citizen may obtain an order from the Post Office Department directing the mailer of offensive materials to stop sending them to that family. If he doesn't respect the order, the Postmaster General will ask the Attorney General to apply for a Federal court order directing compliance. Failure to observe this order may be punished by a fine or imprisonment. I will be glad to send a copy of this pamphlet to anyone requesting it.

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