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FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C.--With the 91st Congress now belonging to the history books a brief adjournment is under way with two immediate results affecting the 15th Congressional District. The first is there will be a brief pause in the issuance of this weekly newsletter, so graciously and kindly handled by the fine media of South Texas, always a source of personal appreciation. The other is that I am heading for home where I will spend the next week in and out of my office in McAllen, visiting around the district, seeing old friends, trying to help with problems concerning all of us, enjoying the counsel and strength I always gain from going home.

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A NEW CONGRESS--The 92nd Congress will convene 21 January. Starting late the 92nd will likely match its forbear by also trying to set another record for longevity. While the 91st did not succeed in setting records, it sure matched those set by any other Congress in a war year. But it did not beat the record of bills introduced in the House--a record still standing from the 61st Congress meeting from 1909-1911 when the House of Representatives introduced 33,015 bills.

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SOUTH TEXAS TRADITION--This year my office enjoyed a South Texas custom, not often experienced in this part of the country. Through the kindness of Starr County Judge Doctor Mario Ramirez my office staff ate tamales for Christmas, a new experience for some of the staff, gustatory nostalgia for us from the border.

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THOUGHT FOR THE YEAR--Friendship among people is what the world ought to be all about every day of the year. Understanding and gentleness in dealing with one another would make life infinitely better for all of us. It is too much to expect perfection in human relationships but we can at least try to do better. And the time is not too late, since January is still here, to make a resolution to act the same between New Year's and Christmas as we do between Christmas and New Year's.

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SNOW IS FOR THE FOLKS--At about this time every year I am troubled by the same question: How can anything that looks as beautiful as snow does when it is falling turn so quickly into one of life's miseries? A field of cotton, the foamy waves of the sea shore, none can share the beauty of new fallen snow on the countryside. Washington's first of the year snowstorm came on schedule, followed immediately by below freezing weather, slippery streets and roads, unpleasant slush and people catching colds. I realize I am wasting my time when I complain about the weather but so far as I am concerned, s-n-o-w spells trouble.

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VISITORS--Visitors from home this week included Scott Atlas, Doctor and Mrs Bob Dowell, Dwight and Stan Dowell, all of McAllen.

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