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E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 3, 1974

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D C -- Rep Kika de la Garza Thursday denounced proposals for a heavy increase in the Federal gasoline tax as "preposterous".

He said an increase of 20 or 30 cents a gallon in the tax would place a heavy burden on people who must use their cars in their work or to get to and from work and on the greater majority of low income people.

"In the South Texas area I represent, citizens have responded wholeheartedly to the need for conserving fuel," Congressman de la Garza said. "When the gasoline shortage was at its worst, they extended the utmost cooperation to the varied energy conservation programs set up by the Government. Now they are faced with the threat that their restraint will be met by an unconscionable increase in the Federal tax on the gasoline they must have for their everyday needs".

The Congressman recalled that as recently as August 10 President Ford said even a 10-cent a gallon increase in the gasoline tax would be "exorbitant, unwise and unnecessary".

"It would be cruel to place upon the poor and the working people all the burden of the nation's problems with fuel shortages. Rationing, as distasteful as it will be, is more just and equitable. All would share the burden.

"I hope Congress will turn back this threat," Rep de la Garza said. "It is totally unjust and inequitable".

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