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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 December 1974

WASHINGTON, D C -- Rep Kika de la Garza announced today that the U S Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made changes in the area regulated under the federal quarantine designed to prevent the spread of citrus blackfly from infested areas in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

All of Hidalgo County has been added to the regulated area and continues Cameron County under regulation according to Leo G K Iverson, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine programs of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The South Texas Congressman was told that today's action is necessary to regulate these areas either because they are near citrus blackfly infestations or because they are inseparable for quarantine purposes from such infestations.

Rep de la Garza said the placing of Hidalgo County under federal regulations is necessary to prevent the interstate spread of the pest to other citrus-growing areas of Arizona, California, Florida and Louisiana. The South Texan added that under these regulations, all citrus shipments leaving a grove must be inspected and found free of leaves before going to the packing shed.

Rep de la Garza emphasized, however, that this quarantine is not imposed on the movement of fruit and the blackfly does not affect the fruit itself in any manner whatsoever -- a fact he is making known to all the buying areas of Texas citrus fruits.

The South Texas Congressman further stated, "We have the best and finest fruit in the world and certainly I want all our friends to know that this has in no way affected the quality, wholesomeness, or movement of the fruit."

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