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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4 January 1990

WASHINGTON--U.S. Rep Kika de la Garza today said the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Energy and Power of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing on January 9 to investigate the recent drastic increases in diesel and home heating fuels throughout the nation.

The South Texas Congressman said "Throughout our area, and particularly in the Rio Grande Valley, the price of diesel fuel has gone through the roof and the cost of home heating fuels such as propane are now very, very high due to enormous consumption during the recent bitter cold that struck most of the U.S."

"We are having a hearing in Washington to gather the facts and examine the circumstances that surround this sudden increase in diesel and heating fuel oils," de la Garza said. The Congressman continued "If there is some way we can better assist our industry distribution system to make it through a weather-related crisis, then we can perhaps ease the problem of fuel availability in the future and maybe keep prices from wildly fluctuating.

Rep de la Garza said "I'll be presenting my own testimony before the House Energy Subcommittee to ensure that everyone is aware of the problems in South Texas being experienced by our home owners and renters who must pay for heating fuels and our trucking industry which must move our produce and other goods."

The nation's energy distribution system was considerably slowed due to frozen rivers and harbors as ships and barges were unable to move the fuels where they were needed most. This, coupled with record-breaking consumption during the worst of the cold spells last month, resulted in rapidly escalating fuel prices as stocks dwindled but the distribution system was temporarily unable to accommodate demand.

The Congressman concluded by saying "We are fully sympathetic with everyone in South Texas touched by the cold weather disaster and we are working in every way to help where we can and return our area to a normal pace and prosperity."

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