

Congress will botch trade, official says

United Press International
AUBURN, Calif. — The United States' foreign trade problems should be solved by the administration's professionals because Congress would make a mess of it, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee said Thursday.

Rep. Kika de la Garza, D-Texas, said that pressure is growing to save the jobs of American workers by curbing imports of foreign manufactured goods.

"If you allow it to get to Congress, we will mess it up royally," de la Garza said.

"We are very constituent-oriented and constituents are looking for protection for shoes, cars, and TV sets. However, other countries could retaliate with curbs on buying American farm exports."

Talking with reporters before making an address at a meeting of the state Board of Food and Agriculture, de la Garza was commenting on a House-passed bill that would require imported cars to contain a high percentage of parts made in the United States. The measure now is before the Senate.

He said that despite growing water shortages in some parts of

the country, a \$200 billion-a-year federal deficit will make it very difficult to get money for future water projects.

De la Garza said the future trend will be local government and water users to put up more of the money needed for water development themselves.

"We have areas that are already out of water," de la Garza said.

He added an example is the San Diego area which could be left short of water because of a U.S. Supreme Court decision granting Arizona a larger share of water available in the Colorado River.

"We are getting behind in bringing water to the areas of greatest need. A change may

come when they really run out of water," he said.

De la Garza said it is impossible for Congress to pass trade laws that apply to all countries because America's problems differ from country to country.

He said the United States suffered an \$8 billion deficit in foreign trade in the third quarter of this year and that agriculture was the only area where the U.S. turned a profit.

"The government isn't subsidizing farmers. What we are really subsidizing are food consumers," the Texas congressman said.

"I'd rather keep one farmer on the land then build one more missile to be ahead of the Soviet Union," he said.



Wiping the slate clean

Cindi Tackitt, Battalion staff

C.T. Bush, grounds maintenance, smooths out the wet cement slab in front of Heaton Hall. The new cement is replacing the epoxy

rock, Prarie Film, around campus because the Prarie Film wears out within six months in heavily traveled areas.

Employers try for new trial

United Press International
GREENVILLE — The employers of a black engineer sentenced to life in jail for an armed robbery said Thursday they were determined to get a new trial for the man and were encouraged by public response to a fund set up for his defense.

Ed Garrett, director of aero technology at E-Systems Inc. where Lenell Geter worked prior to his conviction in August 1982, termed the entire trial leading up to Geter's life sentence the result of "overzealousness on the part of one police officer (from Greenville)."

He said Geter was a model employee whom he was ready to rehire once he is released from jail.

Geter's conviction and the subsequent sensational trial of his roommate, Anthony Williams, on a similar robbery charge, led to allegations of racism on the part of Texas law enforcement authorities and the involvement of the NAACP in the proceedings.

Williams was acquitted of the charge on Nov. 8 but not before the two had been accused of belonging to a gang of sophisticated robbers who had moved to the Dallas area from South Carolina and were responsible

for a series of armed robberies and other crimes in the area.

Some of Geter's colleagues at E-Systems had testified that Geter was at work at the time he was accused of committing the robbery but a jury accepted the testimony of the employees of a fast-food restaurant who said they recognized Geter from photograph as the man who robbed them.

"Some \$9,000 already has been spent and about \$2,000 is left," Geter said. "But we are receiving good contributions."

Garrett said requests for a new trial have been denied three times.

"Geter already has taken a truth serum test but he still can't get a new trial," he said.

Garrett said all employees are required to get a security clearance before being hired by E-Systems.

Geter's court-appointed attorney, Edwin M. Sigel of Dallas said he had filed a motion for a new trial with the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Sept. 23, and was waiting for the state to file its response.

The FBI, meanwhile, had obtained the transcripts of Geter's trial and were investigating whether Geter's civil rights were violated, Sigel said.

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