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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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REMARKS: REMARKS BY MR. de la GARZA

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 1984

● Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the 12th item on the suspension calendar was H.R. 6163, the Federal District Court Organization Act of 1984. Unfortunately, I was not here to speak in support of the measure since among the specifics with which it deals, is a court in my district. I was in my district yesterday conducting hearings on the 1985 farm bill with particular reference to peanuts.

This bill will be of tremendous benefit to the south Texas Rio Grande Valley. Essentially what the legislation will do is create a more orderly judicial process in my area by establishing at McAllen a new division of the U.S. Southern District Court of Texas. This division would exclusively serve the judicial needs of Hidalgo and Starr Counties. As a result of this reorganization, there will be significant financial savings realized—savings approximated at this time to be about $431,000.

The greatest advantages of this legislation, however, are the subjective considerations dealing with manhour savings in the transportation of prisoners, improving the quality of justice and representation by minimizing travel for attorneys, jurors, litigants, witnesses, and clients. Other subjective factors include the improvement of relationships between enforcement agencies and local commissioners' courts which will, I am certain, result in improved jail facilities and general working relationships between Federal, State, and local officers.

Economy, security and caseload reduction are the key factors here—and these are what the Lower Rio Grande Valley is going to realize as a result of this legislation along with the improved administration of justice at the grassroots level. I thank the House for acting affirmatively and I urge the Senate to do likewise.●