

NEWSLETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN  
Brawley, Calif.

January 14, 1965

# VOTE FOR ANNABELLE HILLOCK

FOR DIRECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT FROM DIVISION 3  
(Calipatria & Niland areas) ON FEBRUARY 2, 1965.

The main issue in this election is whether you residents of Imperial County are going to receive the money from the County's yearly agricultural production of \$214 millions plus the \$20 millions in handouts (subsidies) given annually by the Federal Government OR THE OUTSIDE FARM CORPORATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO GET THIS MONEY.

OF ALL THE CANDIDATES RUNNING AGAINST FRANK HOWINGTON, THE INCUMBENT DIRECTOR, ANNABELLE HILLOCK IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT SHE WILL WORK FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAW WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF IMPERIAL COUNTY TO GET EACH YEAR THE \$234 MILLIONS. DR. YELLEN BELIEVES THAT MRS. HILLOCK WILL CARRY OUT HER PROMISE TO HELP ENFORCE THE RECLAMATION LAW.

The U.S. Reclamation Law says that only persons living in Imperial County can farm here. In addition, it also states that a family of a husband and wife and 2 children shall be able to farm 640 acres. So you see that each person in a family is entitled to farm 160 acres. Do not forget that 1 Imperial County acre is equal in production to 5 acres in the Midwest or South, so that in reality this family of 4 is able to farm the equivalent of a 3,200 acres farm back East.

FRANK HOWINGTON, THE PRESENT DIRECTOR FROM DIVISION 3, IS A STOOGUE OF THE ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS AND BIG RANCHES. Here is his record.

Dr. Yellen spent 5 years publicizing the bad results of non-enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law in the Imperial Irrigation District. By means of his Newsletters, he informed the local residents of what was going on but he also sent these Newsletters to officials in Washington, D.C. In addition, he went to Washington, D.C. each year to talk to officials. Finally, the U.S. Dept. of Interior on Dec. 31, 1964 announced that it was going to enforce the U.S. Reclamation Law.

On Tuesday, January 5, 1965, the Board of Directors met. FRANK HOWINGTON VOTED IN FAVOR OF A STATEMENT THAT THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT WILL TRY ALL POSSIBILITIES TO PREVENT ENFORCEMENT OF THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAW.

You mothers should realize that without enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law, your sons when they grow up, will not be able to become farmers and make a good living. So all the young men have to leave Imperial Valley to try to earn a living elsewhere. When your daughters

grow up and are ready for marriage, since the young men have departed, THERE ARE NO YOUNG MEN TO MARRY AND YOUR DAUGHTERS HAVE TO LEAVE.

This is what Frank Howington stands for- making it difficult for your children to enjoy a prosperous happy life.

As you all know you are paying very high electricity bills. These BILLS SHOULD BE HALF OF WHAT THEY ARE. The reason the electricity is so high is because Frank Howington has done nothing to stop the Imperial Irrigation District from selling irrigation water to the big absentee farm corporations at below cost. YOU ARE BEING FORCED TO PAY HIGH ELECTRICITY BILLS SO THAT THE BIG RANCHES CAN GET BELOW COST WATER.

To make sure you do not cheat on paying your electricity bill, your electric meter has 2 seals to make it impossible to cross the wires in the meter so that it will register less electricity used.

But the I.I.D. makes no effort to prevent the big ranches from stealing the irrigation water. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 50% OF THE IRRIGATION WATER IS STOLEN. Here is how it is done. The big ranch puts in an order for irrigation water which is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of what it needs. The water tender(zanjero) who is an employee of the District goes to the irrigation canal and lifts the watergate to a certain height and pushes a rod through a hole so that the watergate will remain at this height during the certain amount of hours that the water has to run. Now there are locks which can be attached so the rod can not be removed. But what happens is this. As soon as the water tender leaves after lifting the gate and setting the rod, Mexican irrigators go to the gate and lift it twice as high and set the rod for twice as much water to flow in. The water runs this way for many hours. Then about one hour before the zanjero is coming back to shut off the water, the Mexican irrigator goes back to the watergate and sets it at the correct level.

The zanjeros are American but are afraid to tell what is going on. They know the Imperial Irrigation District is controlled by the big ranches through Directors like Frank Howington. The zanjeros have families and can not afford to lose their jobs. The Mexicans are Mexicans that live in Mexicali and can not talk English. The big ranches hire them because the big farmers know that these Mexicans will not reveal what is going on because of a language difficulty and even if these Mexicans talk, they can be intimidated and sent back to Mexico where they will not be available to testify in Court against the big ranches.

EVERY WATERGATE DELIVERING WATER TO THE BIG RANCHES SHOULD HAVE A LOCK ON IT SO THAT THE BIG RANCHES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STEAL 50% OF THE IRRIGATION WATER.

Frank Howington has been a party to selling farmland to big ranch corporations at very low prices of \$50.00 for undeveloped land and \$150.00 for cultivated land. THIS HAS BEEN DONE WITHOUT ADVERTISING THE FARMLAND FOR SALE AND ASKING FOR BIDDING. Sale #7108 to the Antone Borchard Corporation consisted of 45 acres at \$50.00 per acre and 25 acres of cultivated farmland at \$150.00 per acre. Little farmers are not given a chance to buy farmland at these low prices. There are many such sales to corporations like Antone Borchard which is one of the corporations which will be driven out when the U.S. Reclamation Law is enforced.

Yet recently when there were a few lots for sale in Niland which the Imperial Irrigation District owned, there was bidding for the lots and the I. I. D. collected a good amount of money for the lots. So you see that Frank Howington is for giveaways of farmland to the big ranches but when townspeople want to buy lots, the I.I.D. forces them to bid for the property and pay the correct sum for the lots.

Future Newsletters will give further examples how Frank Howington is the enemy of the people who live in Imperial Valley. VOTE FOR ANNABELLE HILLOCK, THE FIRST AND ONLY CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR IN DIVISION 3 WHO WANTS TO GIVE A SQUARE DEAL TO THE PEOPLE LIVING HERE. THE ONLY WAY THIS CAN BE DONE IS BY ENFORCEMENT OF THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAW.