

April 5, 1972

VOTE ONLY FOR DR. BEN YELLEN

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1972 FOR COUNCILMAN OF BRAWLEY.

THE BALLOT SAYS VOTE FOR THREE BUT DO NOT DO THIS. JUST VOTE ONLY FOR BEN YELLEN. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR ONLY BEN YELLEN TO SHOW THAT YOU THINK THAT HE IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE WHO WILL DO WHAT HE SAYS IN HIS PRE-ELECTION STATEMENTS.

YOU KNOW MY CAMPAIGN PLATFORM FOR I HAVE BEEN TELLING YOU THE SAME THING FOR MANY YEARS --LOWER THE ELECTRICITY BILLS TO 1/3 OF WHAT THEY ARE NOW AND DRIVE THE ABSENTEE FARMERS OUT OF IMPERIAL COUNTY SO THAT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE CAN DO THE FARMING AND MAKE THE \$50 MILLIONS YEARLY PROFIT THAT IS PRODUCED IN IMPERIAL AND COACHELLA VALLEYS.

IF YOU ONLY VOTE FOR ME AND I GET THE MOST VOTES, IT WILL BE A NOTICE FROM THE PEOPLE TO THE OTHER CANDIDATES THAT THE PEOPLE WANT WHAT DR. YELLEN HAS TALKED ABOUT FOR MANY YEARS. IT WILL ALSO BE A NOTICE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT DONE ABOUT THE ABSENTEE FARM CORPORATIONS.

Now to discuss these problems again so that you should know what is going on. When I was Councilman between 1964 to 1968, I asked that the City Council should authorize a lawsuit to get the electricity rates lowered. Many other cities when electricity rates or telephone rates, etc. are to be increased and are not justified, the City Council of that City authorizes the City Attorney to take legal action against the increase. Alva (Pat) Williams who is running for re-Election April 11, 1972, was on the Council at that time in 1964-1968. He is a hay baling contractor and must do what the big farmers tell him or be ruined. Therefore, do not vote for him for by the Imperial Irrigation District charging you electricity rates which are 3 times too high than they should be, the I.I.D. can sell the water to the big ranchers for 1/4 the correct price. He would not help in 1964-68 to reduce the rates and he will not help now.

If elected to the Council, I will be one against 4 but this does not matter. Two years ago, I started a lawsuit in the Federal Court in Washington, D.C. to compel the Secretary of Interior to set the electricity rates which will result in your bills being 1/3 of what they are now. I used my own money to start the lawsuit but more money is needed so the lawyers can proceed further with the lawsuit. As Councilman, I will get \$1,800.00 per year and I will use this money to pay the lawyers in Washington, D.C. who are fighting for you.

Do not vote for John Benson who is running for re-election to the Council. He is a big farmer whose family gets handouts (the same as welfare) which amounts to \$200,000.00 per year from the Federal Government. Benson wants you to pay high electricity bills so he and the other big ranchers can get irrigation water at 1/4 the correct price with you electricity users subsidizing the big ranchers.

I have lived here for 30 years and have seen the big absentee farm corporations squeeze out the little farmers who were here. Imperial County has a yearly agricultural production worth \$300 millions easily. This is more than the agricultural production of 12 states. For example, the big State of Maine has only a farm production of \$225 millions yearly. Between the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, there is a yearly profit of \$50 millions yearly in farming.

But because of the absentee farm corporations, the young people who grow up here can not get into farming and have to leave. This area is a giant agricultural factory and our own people have to leave for they can not make a living here.

This is the worst example of colonialism for in the usual situation, the profits of management go to the outside BUT AT LEAST THE WAGES OF LABOR REMAIN. BUT HERE THE PROFITS OF MANAGEMENT GO TO THE OUTSIDE AND THE WAGES OF LABOR GO TO MEXICO. You voters are invited to go to Calexico at 4 a.m. and watch 5,000 to 10,000 Mexicans who live in Mexico, cross the border to work at farmwork in the U.S. They are willing to work for low wages at which an American farmworker can not make a living. So there are no American farmworkers here and their families (which would total about 50,000 persons) TO PATRONIZE OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSMEN.

SO OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSMEN ARE HAVING BAD BUSINESS. I have seen many local stores close and some were chain stores because the wages of labor are taken to Mexico. Now all our young people do not want to become farmers but would like to get into merchandising or other types of business. But it is impossible for them to do so and they have to leave also. In the 30 years I have lived here, there has been no increase of population because of the poor business conditions and lack of jobs. Imperial County has the highest unemployment rate in California and also the highest rate of people on welfare. If it were not for the welfare checks, 50% OF THE MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSMEN WOULD GO BANKRUPT.

When I ran for Councilman in 1964 and was elected I told you that I was going to chase the absentee farm corporations out. You are now seeing that what I promised to do in my 1964 election is being done. You have all read in the newspapers about the lawsuits against the absentee farm corporations. NBC NEWS-TV, ON A COAST TO COAST BROADCAST ON FEB. 6, 1972, INTERVIEWED ME ABOUT MY FIGHT TO CHASE OUT THE ABSENTEE CORPORATIONS. The other candidates are scared of the big farm interests and WILL NOT EVEN MENTION THE ELECTRICITY SWINDLE OR CHASING OUT THE ABSENTEE FARM CORPORATIONS.

THE BIG FARMERS ARE OUT TO PREVENT MY ELECTION. THEY ARE TRYING TO GET LOUIS CURIEL WHO SELLS SEEDS TO THEM, ELECTED. NOTICE THE LARGE NUMBER OF SIGNS ADVISING YOU VOTERS ON THE WESTSIDE OF BRAWLEY TO VOTE FOR HIM. HE HAS LOTS OF ADS IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND MANY RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS. ED RUTHERFORD IN ORDER TO GIVE LOUIS CURIEL A BIG PUBLIC IMAGE, MADE HIM CHAIRMAN OF THE CATTLE RODEO TO FOOL YOU WESTSIDE VOTERS INTO BELIEVING THAT CURIEL WILL DO SOMETHING FOR YOU. HE WILL NOT. HE WILL DO WHAT THE BIG FARM INTERESTS TELL HIM.

The plan of the absentee farm corporations is to get a big vote on the Eastside from the Mexican-Americans who are to be fooled that Louis Curiel will help them. Then you Westside voters are to be fooled into voting for Curiel. In this way, the big farmers hope to defeat me. SO I REMIND YOU AGAIN, VOTE ONLY FOR BEN YELLEN, SO THAT I CAN GET THE SALARY OF \$1,800.00 TO PAY THE LAWYERS IN THE ELECTRICITY CASE AND THE LAWSUITS AS WHO IS TO DO THE FARMING.

When I became Councilman in 1964, I found that the big ranchers with offices in Brawley, were not paying business license taxes. I started a big fight about it and now many are paying business license taxes. But I now find that at the Brawley Inn, 590 West Main St., there are many business offices of cattle companies who are not paying business license taxes. Even if they pay, it is only \$8.00 per quarter. This is too little. ELECT ME COUNCILMAN AND I WILL FIGHT TO COLLECT ALL THE BUSINESS LICENSE TAXES AND ALSO HIGHER AMOUNTS.