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## HOW MUCH MONEY HAS SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON RECEIVED IN DONATIONS FROM THE LAW FIRM OF O'MELVENY & MYERS AND ITS CLIENTS?

In 1902, a Reclamation Bill was being debated in Congress. It said that the Federal Government would make water available so that a person could farm 160 acres by irrigation but the person must live on or close to the land. The sponsors said that it would give many poor people the chance to leave the big cities and begin to farm. But a Congressman from Tammany Hall in New York City said he was going to vote against it for it will end up that the big money people would get all the benefits. Each one in a family can have 160 acres.

This is the story how this prophecy came true in Imperial Valley, Calif. The Bureau of Reclamation of the Dept. of Interior was supposed to supervise this land and water situation. But it is corrupt and is so at present. Albert Fall, the Secretary of the Interior was sent to prison in the 1920's for taking a bribe of \$100,000 from oilman Sinclair for an oil reserve in the San Joaquin Valley. The lower echelons in the Bureau of Reclamation are no better for they have never made an effort for low income people to start farming.

In 1960, the U. S. Supreme Court unanimously gave the verdict that the law must be enforced in the Ivanhoe Water District case. This lawsuit was not started by the Reclamation Bureau but by a private individual. This district consisted of 20,000 acres. It tried to build its own irrigation system but it failed. It begged the Federal Gov't. to build a system for it which was done. But the big money people like the DiGiorgio Co. with 6,000 acres refused to leave. So the lawsuit followed and it was called McCracken vs. Ivanhoe Water District.

In the Imperial Valley, a similar situation existed. The erratic river that brought water from the Colorado River entered through Mexico. Then the Mexicans used its water for irrigation farming. Then it turned North and entered the U.S. where again the water was used for farming. But the big trouble was that the amount of water entering this river was very variable. If a small amount entered, the Mexicans used it all up. If sufficient water entered, the Mexicans used the amount needed and the surplus would then go to the U.S. There were constant fights in the U.S. for the surplus varied greatly and a farmer would plant a crop and not get water to nourish it. Many farmers failed because of this. In addition there was an East Mesa of 225,000 acres which never got water because it was 20 feet higher than the river and water could not flow to it by gravity.

So the U.S. farmers began to beg the U.S. Gov't. to build an All-American Canal which would only run in the U.S. and supply water by gravity to the East Mesa and the rest of the Imperial Irrigation District. This was done by the Federal Gov't. and the canal completed in 1942. The corrupt Bureau of Reclamation never enforced the law and to this day, the East Mesa never received irrigation water.

With the Warren Supreme Court giving the unanimous verdict in 1960, I went to Prof. Paul Taylor at the Univ. of Calif. in Berkeley, and sought his advice. He had written many articles in academic magazines on the subject and was the foremost authority. He showed me his articles and told me the law had never been enforced because the Bureau of Reclamation is corrupt. I then began going to Washington, D.C.. and was fortunate to meet Ramsey Clark, Attorney General of the U.S. It was then announced that the Reclamation Law was going to be enforced in 1964.

But a delay occurred. But I do not know why. Finally, on January 11, 1967, the lawsuit U.S. vs. Imperial Irrigation District was filed in the U. S. District Court in San Diego. During all this time Alan Kreps, a lawyer from O'Melveny & Myers had been coming to Imperial Valley making speeches before Rotary, Elks club, etc. saying that the law does not apply to the Imperial Irrigation District.

Finally, after 3 1/2 years of postponements, I made up a Newsletter dated Sept. 6, 1970 entitled "OPEN LETTER TO JUDGE TURRENTINE". This was sent to the media, Judges, and politicians. Judge Turrentine was told that Justice long delayed is not Justice. The Judge set the trial in Dec. 1970. After session for 2 weeks, he gave the verdict to the Imperial Irrigation District. Suspecting that the Gov't. was not going to appeal, I had my lawyer, Arthur Brunwasser of San Francisco step in with me as an intervenor to do the appeal. As suspected the Gov't. did not appeal.

The lawsuit U. S. vs. Imperial Irrigation District was defective in that it did not have the residency provision which is more important than the limitation of 160 acres to a person. So I had my lawyer file Ben Yellen, et al v. Walter Hickel, Secretary of the Interior for enforcement of the residency provision. Judge William Murray, of Butte, Montana, a visiting Judge, gave us the decision. So we asked the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, to combine the 2 lawsuits. This was granted.

By this time, Nixon had been elected President. While he was running for Governor he had come here declaring that he is against enforcement of the 1902 law. So we knew we had powerful forces to fight. Nixon's Attorney General Mitchell was sent to prison for a crime not connected with the 1902 law. Horton, Knox, Carter, the law firm of the I.I.D. faded out of the picture and O'Melveny & Myers (with 500 lawyers) took over for Imperial Resources as intervenors. Imperial Resources represented the absentee farmland owners who at present own 90% of the farmland with a \$900 million yearly production.

New information had come in. I put out a Newsletter dated Jan. 20, 1972 entitled, "JUDGE HOWARD TURRENTINE IS A POLLUTER OF JUSTICE". This described how Turrentine was a land speculator and had big acreages of farmland in Borrego Springs. The DiGiorgio of the Ivanhoe lawsuit also had big acreages at Borrego Springs. They had been using well water and the wells were running dry. Borrego Springs had started a campaign to become connected up to the All-American Canal. Judge Turrentine had a conflict of interests and should not have presided at the trial of U.S. vs. Imperial Irrigation District.

By this time I had caught the eyes of the news media. In the Spring of 1972, C.B.S. 60 MINUTES had a program on the I.I.D. Lawyer Brunwasser and I were on it. The local newspapers did not report it!

The absentee big farmers then put on a big propaganda stunt by taking over the Imperial Fairgrounds without paying for it. Hundreds of farm tractors were parked in front of the grandstand. The grandstand was packed with Mexican farmworkers who live in Mexicali, Mexico and cross the border to work in the U.S. Here the big farmers put up their speakers whom the Mexican farmworkers could not understand. Then at a signal, they would applaud. One speaker was Congressman Mervyn Dymally who was born in Trinidad, West Indies. There is less than 1% blacks here so I do not understand why the big farmers brought him to speak. He was well applauded. How much money the big farmers donated to him I do not know. Arthur Brunwasser, my lawyer tried to speak but he was booed a lot. The news photographers and writers of the local papers were there. The newspapers were full of articles and pictures. The event was sent nationwide to influence citizens of the U.S. that the true residents were satisfied with the status quo.

On May 28, 1974, The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals heard the combined 2 lawsuits. Then we began to wait. At this point the reader must learn that Warren Christopher, the managing director of O'Melveny & Myers is an ex-Deputy Attorney General of the U.S. By 1977, 3 years after the hearing, there was still no decision. I was reaching 70 years of age and if I died, there would be no money to proceed to the U.S. Supreme Court. So without the knowledge of Arthur Brunwasser, I made up a Newsletter dated June 28, 1977 entitled "THE CONSTIPATED 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS" and went to San Francisco to picket the Court and distribute the Newsletter in late July. I did this for just one day but was fortunate in interesting reporters for the combined edition of the S. F. Chronicle and S.F. Examiner which printed a big article. I do not think Warren Christopher expected this and as I said my own lawyer did not know about my skullduggery. Then I began mailing like mad the Newsletter all over the U.S. to news media, Judges and politicians and even the Supreme Court of the U. S.

Three weeks after my amateur lawyering, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals gave the verdict in our favor 2-1. Then after upending much money, it landed in the U.S. Supreme Court. The reader should know the background of William Rehnquist who was an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court when the lawsuit was heard. When California and Arizona clashed on the matter of the Gila River in Arizona, a New York Judge was appointed to hear the lawsuit. It ran about one year and everyone felt the New York Judge did not have any entangling alliances with either California or Arizona, both of which have tremendous agricultural production. President Nixon who publicly spoke against enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law, appointed William Rehnquist Associate Justice. He had a private practice in Phoenix and as such was in contact with the agricultural growers who are the power structure in Arizona. Big growers operate simultaneously in both states.

So when the decision came out from the Supreme Court in 1978, it said that the law was to be enforced since 1929. But in contrast to the Warren Supreme Court decision in the Ivanhoe case where the farmers had failed repeatedly to devise an irrigation system which was reliable, the Warren Court said it made no difference. The I. I. D. decision said that farmers who had gotten water before 1929 were exempt. But these farmers before 1929 were never sure of getting water just as the Ivanhoe farmers. So the local newspapers printed that the big farmers won. This was not true for the Elmore family first began farming a 6,000 acres farm near the Salton Sea in 1942.

The entire East Mesa which was one of the main reasons for building the All-American Canal has not gotten any water for the little people were going to farm this land. The big absentee farmers did not want any competition from the little farmers. Tremendous acreages North of El Centro had never been farmed because of the erratic water supply. I lived here in 1942 and so did many oldtimers so that we can testify that 40% (180,000 acres) of the present 450,000 acres now in cultivation by the Imperial Irrigation District, was never in cultivation when the All-American Canal began to function. The 270,000 acres (60%) were in cultivation but the farmer took a very big chance that he would not get water from Mexico. Many went broke.

So with the Supreme Court decision, I waited for the corrupt Bureau of Reclamation to tabulate the 180,000 acres that had never been in cultivation. The Bureau did nothing. Then suddenly in December of 1980 Congress passed a sneak amendment saying "Imperial County is exempt from the provisions of the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902." This amendment had been put through by Senator Alan Cranston who parades around a friend of the little people. So this is how the prophecy of the Tammany Hall Congressman came true. So we are without the protection of this law.

But the I. I. D. under the control of the absentee farmland holders had set up a swindling scheme whereby the electricity users are charged 3 times the correct price for electricity and these profits are used to subsidize the irrigation water which is sold at 1/4 the correct price. Another swindling scheme is that the electricity users living in the I. I. D. get only 4% of the water brought in by the All-American Canal but are forced to pay 90% of the cost of the Canal. There are other swindles also. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Section on Organized Crime and Racketeering of the Dept. of Justice are being supplied with this information to see if the people here can get justice.

Then new information came in. Alan Kreps, the lawyer of O'Melveny & Myers had gone to Washington, D. C. and set up a base in the office of Senator Cranston, from which he had done lobbying for the sneak amendment.

The question of reprisals come up. I know that Prof. Taylor did not lose his job at the Univ. of Calif. My lawyer, Arthur Brunwasser, had his office put on fire. I had my physician's license revoked so I could not earn money to hire lawyers. There were other reprisals but lack of space prevents giving them.

Now we come to the matter of Charles Keating and the Lincoln bank. Keating lives in Phoenix, Ariz. and his bank loaned lots of money to big farmers operating both in California and Arizona. These farmers were all in violation of the U. S. Reclamation Law of 1902. The Salt River Project, the Yuma Area Project (completed at the time of the All-American Canal), the Central Arizona Project now being completed, are all still subject to the Law of 1902. In Arizona, the low income people, the Hispanics, and the Indians are all being swindled of their rights.

So the next step is for Senator Dennis DeConcini to push a sneak amendment through Congress to eliminate the law for Arizona. He will be helped by Senator Cranston whom DeConcini aided in 1980 with exempting Imperial County from the Law. What Senator John McCain will do I do not know but so far he has made no mention of the violations in Arizona. It does not look good for the little people of Arizona for I do not know of anyone there raising his voice in protest as Prof. Taylor, Attorney Brunwasser, and I have done.

Imperial County ranks 6th in the U.S. for agricultural production. If the 225,000 acres in the East Mesa got its water the total would be 675,000 acres making it the biggest irrigation district in the U. S. as compared to the 600,000 acres of the Westlands Water District in the San Joaquin Valley of California. It has 25% unemployment and ranks last in family yearly income in California.