

February 25, 1961

\$100,000

WHITEWASH

THE BIG FARMERS HAVE RUINED THE ECONOMY OF IMPERIAL VALLEY !!!!!!!

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that in 1945, there were 2,932 farms. In 1959, the farms were reduced to 1,306, a loss of 1,626 farms. These 1,626 little farmers were driven out by the corporation farmers who bought up the little farmers' land. The Census Bureau also reports that in 1945, there were 65 big farmers with farms over 1,000 acres. In 1959, there are 122 big farmers with farms over 1,000 acres. In addition the average farm rose in value from \$20,000 in 1945 to \$205,000 in 1959.

THESE 1,626 FARMERS AND THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN AMOUNTED TO 6,000 PEOPLE, HAVE LEFT IMPERIAL VALLEY AND THE MERCHANTS LOST ALL THESE GOOD CUSTOMERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

BUT THE BIG CORPORATION FARMERS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH DRIVING OUT THE LITTLE FARMERS. They also drove out in the last 10 years, 15,000 domestic farm workers by bringing in Mexican braceros and giving the jobs to the foreigners. The domestic farmworkers and their wives and children, AMOUNTED TO 50,000 people, were good customers of the merchants. This time starting in 1952, the depression became severe because the braceros did not have their families with them and bought nothing.

THE MERCHANTS ARE ANGRY AND ARE IN OPEN REVOLT AND THE BIG FARMERS ARE AFRAID THAT THE MERCHANTS WILL JOIN THE WORKING PEOPLE AND ELECT CANDIDATES WHO WILL NOT BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BIG FARMERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

So the big farmers have started a "campaign for tourism" to divert the minds of the people from the fact that the big corporations which own 90% of the farmland are ruining the economy of the Valley. Claude Finnell who is paid by us taxpayers has been putting out propaganda in favor of the big farmers. The County Board of Trade which has done nothing all these years, is controlled by the big farmers. They know that if industry is brought in here, the unions will come with the industries and the workers will vote for the candidates who are against the big farmers. THE BIG FARMERS ARE AFRAID OF THIS AS THEY WANT TO CONTROL THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Claude Finnell and the County Board of Trade want to hire publicity agents and use \$100,000 supposedly for "tourism". This is just whitewash to cover up what the big farmers are doing.

SINCE 250 small business establishments and 10 chain stores have closed in the last 10 years, the big corporation farmers want to hide all this for they know that the people are beginning to notice all the empty stores!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HERE IS WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO BRING BACK PROSPERITY TO IMPERIAL VALLEY----the County Board of Supervisors and the City Council of each city, should pass Resolutions asking the U.S. Congress to have the 160 acre limitation of the U.S. Reclamation Laws enforced; the same Resolutions should ask for the stoppage of the importation of braceros.

THIS WILL RESULT IN THE LITTLE FARMERS AND DOMESTIC FARMWORKERS RETURNING AND PATRONIZING THE LOCAL MERCHANTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!