

Nov. 7, 1965

ERNEST O. STEIMLE

DISGRACE OF THE WEEK

I have been waiting since June 1, 1965 for November to come when everyone receives his property tax bill. On this bill sent you by the County, you will be paying the school taxes.

On June 1, 1965 was the day on which unification of schools was voted on all over Imperial County. Now that you have your tax bills showing how much your school taxes are, you will better understand how the big ranches fooled you to vote "No" on unification. Supt. Steimle helped them fool you.

The situation as regards the elementary schools is simply this: John Bowman, the Assessor-Collector, has been putting fake low assessments on the farmland so that this farmland escapes on the average 66% of the county taxes. Do not forget that 70% of the farmland is owned by absentee landowners so that John Bowman is swindling you inhabitants of Imperial County for the benefit of mainly the absentee landowners.

But there is an additional fact that you must know. If the farmland is properly situated so that it can be attached to the tax rolls of a school like Magnolia near Brawley or like Westside near El Centro, this farmland will escape 85% of the school taxes. For instance the Westside school has only 4 teachers and the Magnolia school has only 3 teachers. Vast amounts of farmland are attached to the taxrolls of these schools but since they are small, not much money is needed for these small schools. So the big ranches near these schools escape 85% of the school taxes as compared to a ranch which is attached for tax purposes to El Centro or Brawley which escapes 66% of the school taxes.

To show you a practical instance, take the example of Neil Fifield a big rancher whose farmland is attached to the Magnolia school. He was once a County Supervisor for the Brawley area. He is a millionaire and his wife Marian is on the Board of Trustees of the Magnolia School. His farmland because of the fake low assessments on it, escapes about \$15,000 yearly. But Neil Fifield and the other local big ranchers only own 26% of the Imperial County farmland. Absentee landowners have 70% of the farmland, so you can see that John Bowman, the Assessor-Collector is running this tax swindle for the benefit of outsiders.

To show you how big the school tax is, just study the tax bill of Dr. Yellen for his office in Brawley. The same holds true for everyone who owns a home in Brawley, El Centro, Calexico or any other town in Imperial County. The county tax is \$136.16. This money is used to pay the expenses of the county. But then the county collects \$262.08 from Dr. Yellen for the schools. In other words, the money collected in taxes for the use of the schools is twice the money collected for the use of the county.

So you can readily recognize why these big landowners all DO NOT WANT UNIFICATION OF THE SCHOOLS. Neil Fifield and his wife escape 85% of the school taxes by their farmland being attached to the Magnolia School. Never forget that the absentee landowners own 70% of the land and it is chiefly their land which is attached to schools like Magnolia and Westside Schools and thereby escape 85% of the school taxes.

There is a James McCutcheon who is a representative of the California Taxpayers Association who has been coming frequently to Imperial Valley and making speeches which are propaganda to fool you so you should not know how John Bowman and the big landowners are making you

pay much higher amounts in taxes to make up for the taxes that the large ranches do not pay. The name California Taxpayers Assoc. is a deception. The members of this organization are big landowners and other big property owners who want to fool you into believing that the salaries of the county employees and the welfare of the poor are the cause of the high taxes. The big owners of Imperial County farmland belong to this organization. Small homeowners do not gain belonging to this association.

The Imperial County employees receive lower salaries than those in Los Angeles and San Diego. The big ranchers in Imperial County receive 8 times the charity handouts that the poor receive. To show who run the Calif. Taxpayers Assoc., one of the directors of this organization is Porter Sesnon. He is also a director of the Kern County Land Co. which is probably the biggest landowner in California.

Locally, Cliff Hurley, a real estate broker in El Centro and a Vice Chairman of the Republican County Central Committee is working in cahoots with James McCutcheon to brainwash you. The local big ranchers stay in the background while Cliff Hurley pats out press releases with the big farmer propaganda that the county employees and the poor get too much money. He and McCutcheon never tell you about the \$8 million tax swindle that John Bowman is pulling on you for the big landowners.

Ernest O. Steimle, the Superintendent of the Brawley Elementary School District is another propagandist for the big ranchers. He is the one who led the fight against unification of the Magnolia and Mulberry Schools with the Brawley Elementary School District so that the large amount of farmland attached to the Magnolia and Mulberry Schools should be able to escape 85% of the school taxes.

Steimle goes about making speeches on Americanism. In the Nov. 1, 1965 issue of the Brawley News (PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS), there is a big article on Supt. Steimle with the headline CITIZEN OF THE WEEK. PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS may think that Steimle is the CITIZEN OF THE WEEK, but DR. YELLEN'S NEWSLETTER considers him the DISGRACE OF THE WEEK. Read what harm this caricature of a SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT has done to the parents and children of the Brawley community.

Dr. Yellen purposely went to see the so-called Americanism exhibit which Supt. Steimle boasts about. Well, 50 years ago, Dr. Yellen remembers similar displays. This sort of stuff is alright for children but a more positive type of Americanism is necessary for adults. For instance, there are American flags above the pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. There is a phrase, "Follow in their footsteps".

E.O. Steimle gives lip service to George Washington. But he does the exact opposite of what Washington did. George Washington was a rich man but he felt that the British were imposing unfair taxes on the American colonists. Yes it was the same problem just like the unfair taxes being put on the inhabitants by John Bowman and the big ranchers. General Washington did not have anything to gain for himself but he became the Commander of the Rebels who fought the British. If England had put down the Revolution, George Washington would have been caught and hung as a rebel and his property confiscated.

E.O. Steimle is controlled by the big ranchers on the Board of Trustees of the Brawley Elementary School District. Here is what he does about the unfair taxes. He makes speeches and puts advertisements into the newspapers which deliberately fail to tell the voters that if unification is defeated, that the State of Calif. made it mandatory that the school taxes be increased 60 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

The State gives 75 cents of every dollar that is spent in the Brawley and Westmorland schools. The State knows about this racket where the big ranches are attached to the small rural schools to escape 85% of the school taxes. The State gave the choice of voting "yes" on unification and make the big ranchers pay more school taxes, or you ordinary people pay 60 cents per \$100 assessed valuation more in taxes on your homes. If you have a \$12,000 home, you are therefore being made to pay \$18.00 more per year in school taxes BECAUSE UNIFICATION WAS DEFEATED. The Foundation of a Democracy is a Well-Informed Citizenry. STEIMLE IS A DISGRACE. He did not tell you about the mandatory school tax.