

Oct. 22, 1963

# COSA NOSTRA BONA OF CALIFORNIA

We country boys are getting sick and tired of hearing and seeing the U.S. Senate Anti-Rackets Committee give all the television time to the crimes in the big cities like New York, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, etc. etc. The COSA NOSTRA gets all the publicity.

WE HAVE NICE BIG RACKETS IN THE COUNTRY AND PARTICULARLY IN CALIFORNIA AND WE WANT TO GET ON TELEVISION ALSO. OUR CITY COUSINS ARE GETTING ALL THE GLORY. WE WANT SOME. WE ARE TIRED OF HEARING ITALIAN NAMES AS BEING ABLE TO MAKE ALL THE MONEY IN THE COSA NOSTRA. HERE WE HAVE 100% AMERICAN NAMES SIMILAR TO SENATOR McCLELLAN AND CONGRESSMAN GATHINGS, WHICH ARE MAKING BIG MONEY IN THE RACKETS COUNTRY STYLE.

The ancestors of the country boys in our rackets came to the United States a long time ago. Some of them came over on the Mayflower. The men belong to the Sons of the American Revolution and their wives belong to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Before they started their rackets in California, they first practiced up swindling the Indians out of their land as they slowly made their way to the Golden Land-California.

Since I live in California, I will describe the racket here although variations of the same tactics are going on all over the U.S. Because 9 of the counties of California hold positions in the top ten counties of the United States as to agricultural production, the racket is most highly developed here.

Imperial County of California will be used as an example. This county is on the Mexican border East of San Diego. It has an agricultural production of \$213 millions yearly. It has only 75,000 people. The U.S. government spent billions of the taxpayers money to build the Boulder Dam and a series of subsidiary dams on the Colorado River so that the desert land bordering the Colorado could be farmed. Prior to the government dams, the farmers (called ranchers in California) never knew if they were going to get water for their crops from their makeshift irrigation system. The Imperial Irrigation District which ran the makeshift irrigation system was bankrupt all the time. It could not deliver the irrigation water because there was none to deliver since the dams were not there to control the Colorado River.

But with the building of the dams, all that changed. The delivery of water was a certainty. So in the 1930's the racket began with the construction of the dams and the completion of a special canal called the ALL AMERICAN CANAL to bring water to the Imperial Irrigation District. The large ranch interests with the assistance of Northcutt Ely had a "quickie decision" made just 8 days before President Roosevelt assumed office in 1933. There is a Federal Law called the "Reclamation Act of 1902". This law says that when the Federal government builds dams and canals, water will be distributed so that each person can

farm 160 acres. Therefore, a husband and wife with 2 children would be entitled to get water to farm 4 times 160 acres for a total of 640 acres. An Imperial County acre gives a production equal to 5 acres in the South. So the big farm corporations all wanted all the farmland.

The owners of these big ranch corporations have 100% American names. They are looked up to as civic leaders. But they started to squeeze out the little farmers who were legally getting the water. Northcutt Ely is their "mouthpiece" in Washington D.C. since 1933 to see to it that the "quickie decision" that permits non-enforcement of the 160 acres limitation, is not reversed. ALL OTHER FARMLAND GETTING WATER FROM THE COLORADO RIVER, HAS ENFORCEMENT OF THE 160 ACRES LIMITATION. 1600 little farmers have been squeezed out since 1945 while the big farm corporations manipulate the strings in Washington, D.C.

I CHALLENGE YOU SENATOR McCLELLAN TO SHOW ME ONE INSTANCE WHERE THE NEW YORK COSA NOSTRA HAS SUCH GREAT INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The owners of these big ranches have gone to colleges like Stanford, University of California, University of Arizona, University of Southern California, etc. They know their Latin and knew that Cosa Nostra means "Our Thing". So now since they know about the New York Cosa Nostra, they are beginning to call their setup, COSA NOSTRA BONA, meaning "Our Good Thing".

Ninty percent of the farmland here is farmed in violation of the U.S. Reclamation Act of 1902. Rackets have to be analyzed like crime statistics-the number of crimes per capita. You dont expect that Senator McClellan's home town of Camden, Ark. (population 15,823) to have as many crimes as Detroit (population of metropolitan area 3.7 millions).

Yet on Oct. 10, 1963, Police Commissioner, George Edwards of Detroit testified that the mobsters there grossed \$150 millions. If this amount is divided by 3.7 millions population, you only get \$40.00 per capita. But figure it out for Imperial County where the big corporations gross \$200 millions with a population of only 75,000 and you get \$2,666.00 per capita. The "Cosa Nostra Bona" of Imperial County has a gross take per capita which is 66 times greater than that of the mobsters in Detroit. Our city cousins should be taking lessons from our country boys. Our boys make it look legal besides.

The elite in the "Cosa Nostra Bona" here is known as the "SALINAS SWINDLERS". They come from Salinas Valley and thereabouts and grow 93% of the lettuce which is harvested here in the winter months. These "Salinas Swindlers" plus the other big landowners escape 50% to 75% of the correct property taxes because Assessor-Collector Bowman does not put the correct assessment on their farmland. We, the 75,000 people, have to pay \$4 millions extrain taxes to make up for the large ranches. In rural areas, rural types of exploitation hold sway.

The big farm interests want cheap irrigation water so the Imperial Irr. Dist which distributes electricity to us makes us pay electricity rates which are about 3 times higher than they should be so that we are mulcted of \$14 millions yearly to subsidize the ranches.

The large farms import the Mexican braceros under Public Law #78 so that the domestic farmworkers can not get work. There are 10,000 farm jobs open here in the wintertime. If domestic farmworkers came here with their families and could get the jobs, the total of the workers and their families would be 40,000. They would patronize our merchants and businessmen who would not be going broke as they now are. The large ranches exploit this "Mexican slave labor". Is the money any different from that made by mobs exploiting women in "white slavery" (polite words for prostitution)? Rep. Gathings of Ark. steam rollers Public Law #78 through the House because the Cosa Nostra Bona of Arkansas can have "slave labor". Senator McClellan votes for it also. The "Arkies" are starved out and come to Imperial Valley in the winter to get work but meet the same "slave labor".

Dont forget the Irvine Co. which escapes \$120,000 yearly in taxes. When attacked, the Irvine Foundation acts as a Public Relations firm. Senator McClellan! Put Cosa Nostra Bona on television!