

NEWSLETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN
Brawley, Calif.

April 9, 1970

WRITE-IN BEN YELLEN FOR COUNCILMAN

On April 14, 1970, these candidates will be voted on as to which two will be elected Councilmen--Bill Bryan, Jake Dominguez, Roger Harlow, Robert Harrington, Dave Hernandez, Robert Martelli, Dan Mulder, and Phil Reed. BUT I ASK YOU TO WRITE IN BEN YELLEN.

Now we all know that Indio, Calif. where this election is going to take place is in the area which is considered the hottest in the United States. In order to keep cool, electricity is needed in great quantities for airconditioning.

IT IS THEREFORE VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE ELECTRICITY RATES FOR THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE. IN A LAWSUIT FILED IN THE FEDERAL COURT AT WASHINGTON, D.C., I, BEN YELLEN OF BRAWLEY, CALIF. AND RAUL LOYA OF INDIO, CALIF. HAVE ACCUSED THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR OF PERMITTING THE SWINDLING OF THE RESIDENTS OF INDIO, COACHELLA, THERMAL, NILAND, CALIPATRIA, BRAWLEY, WESTMORLAND, IMPERIAL, EL CENTRO, CALEXICO, HOLTVILLE, WINTERHAVEN, ETC. OF \$14 MILLIONS YEARLY BY THE CONSPIRACY OF THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND THE COACHELLA VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT.

In this swindle the people of Indio which is the same size as Brawley where I live, are swindled out of \$2½ millions yearly in electric bills. When you know that Indio and Brawley have to each spend yearly \$1½ millions to run the city, you can realize how serious is this extortion to the people of Indio.

Now in other cities like Calexico, El Centro, Brawley, etc., candidates for Councilmen are talking about the electricity swindle in their campaign speeches. For example, Councilman Luis Legaspi who is running for re-election has said that he is in favor of the City of Calexico giving money to pay the lawyers in Washington, D.C. so that a strong bettle will be made to cut the electricity rates to 1/3 of what they are.

I HAVE READ THE STATEMENTS OF THE 8 CANDIDATES WHO ARE RUNNING FOR THE COUNCILMAN SEATS IN INDIO, AND NOT ONE OF THEM, I REPEAT NOT ONE, HAS SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE ELECTRICITY SWINDLE WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF INDIO. EACH FAMILY IN INDIO DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF AIRCONDITIONING IT HAS, IS BEING SWINDLED OUT OF \$50.00 TO \$250.00 YEARLY. BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS ARE BEING SWINDLED OUT OF MUCH BIGGER SUMS.

When candidates do not discuss such an important issue because of fears of economic reprisals from the big farm interests who

are benefitting from this extortion by only paying 1/4 the correct price for the irrigation water while the electricity users pay 3 times the correct price to subsidize the big ranches, it is time for the voters TO PROTEST BY WRITING IN NAMES OF PERSONS WHO WILL LEAD THE PROTEST.

All voters should read the Riverside Enterprise of Sunday March 29, 1970 on pages B1 and B2 for the statements of the candidates to assure themselves that none spoke on the electricity extortion. The article said, "Most of the candidates speak of the need for improved recreation facilities, better communication between citizens and officials and more energetic efforts to promote tourism and industrial development". These are evasive words which have been said many times in previous Indio councilmen elections so that intimidated candidates escape discussing the high electricity prices that affect every person in Indio.

In 1962, I ran as a write-in candidate to protest the fake assessments on ranches which were too low so that people with homes in the cities of Imperial County had to pay much higher county taxes to make up for the taxes the ranches did not pay. I ran as a write-in candidate for Assessor-Collector of Imperial County to give the voters a chance to protest against the 2 candidates who had their names printed on the ballot. I got 693 write-in votes which was one out of every 25 persons voting for Assessor-Collector. A person running as a write-in candidate in this way does not expect to win BUT IT TELLS THE CITY COUNCIL THAT LOTS OF VOTERS WANT THE CITY COUNCIL TO DO SOME THING ABOUT THE ELECTRICITY SWINDLE.

Here's how you protest. On election day April 14, 1970, go to the election booth with a pencil. If you forgot to bring a pencil, ask the election officials for a pencil WHICH THEY MUST GIVE YOU IF YOU ASK FOR IT. Your ballot will look like this and there will be empty spaces to write in Ben Yellen as indicated. Since you have to vote for 2 candidates, you may also wish to write in Raul Loya who as a candidate for Assemblyman is speaking loudly about the electricity swindle. You can even write in Mickey Mouse and it will be understood that you are protesting-the name does not matter.

In empty space write in →

For MEMBER OF THE	
CITY COUNCIL Vote for two	
Other candidate	
<i>Ben Yellen</i>	

If everybody protests, future candidates will be encouraged to discuss the electricity swindle and as I said the City Council will pay attention to your protests. This is a way of expressing your opinion in a "Gallup Poll" but with this great advantage. When you vote nobody knows that you wrote in my name in protest against the electricity swindle and the failure of candidates to discuss it.

There is one candidate that nobody should vote for. He is Dan Mulder. He works for the Coachella Valley County Water District. He can not do anything for you in regards to the electricity swindle. He'll be fired from his job if he tries to help the people. He may very well be a good citizen but common sense tells you that you can not expect a man with a wife and children to jeopardize his job.

Do not worry about writing in my name even though I do not live in Indio because the election officials must count every write in vote whether it is Ben Yellen or a fictitious name like Mickey Mouse.

All you voters who are angry about the high electricity prices, after you read this leaflet, pass it on to other voters. By these leaflets, the voters can find out about the protest by write in. There will be no newspaper or radio advertising-only leaflets. I had waited patiently for some of the candidates to talk about this issue. Since they are afraid to do so, by writing me in, YOU VOTERS CAN DO SO AND KEEP YOUR IDENTITY SECRET. When you write my name to protest, you show me that you want me to continue my efforts to get lower electricity bills for you!!!