

May 20, 1972

VOTE FOR DR. BEN YELLEN FOR SUPERVISOR

Election Day is Tuesday, June 6, 1972. There are 3 other candidates besides me running for Supervisor of the 4th District of Imperial County.

The 4th District consists essentially of Brawley, Calipatria, Niland, and the areas in between plus the Southeastern area around the Salton Sea. It does not however, include that portion of the City of Brawley which is East of the railroad tracks and South of B St.

Now this Supervisor's election is very important for if I am elected, I will be able to use the \$9,200 yearly salary to pay lawyers to get justice for the people who are being oppressed by the absentee big farmers.

So it is necessary to tell you again the problems of Imperial County and how I intend to solve them or what I have already done to solve them. This is necessary for the other 3 candidates are either stooges of the big farm interests or are afraid of them so that they will not discuss these problems and will not take any steps to remedy these serious matters.

THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT I DO NOT NEED THE COOPERATION OF THE OTHER 4 SUPERVISORS WHO CARRY OUT THE DESIRES OF THE BIG FARM INTERESTS. BY USING THE \$9,200 SALARY IN LEGAL ACTIONS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ALREADY STARTED, THE OPPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE STOPPED.

During the 30 years that I have lived here, I have never heard a candidate for public office ever tell the voters the truth as to why the taxes are so high here so that many homeowners on limited incomes, find it very hard to pay the taxes.

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT WHICH HAS ASSETS OF \$150 MILLIONS DOES NOT PAY PROPERTY TAXES OF \$4½ MILLIONS A YEAR. YOU, THE HOMEOWNERS, THEREFORE HAVE TO PAY DOUBLE THE TAXES TO MAKE UP FOR THE I.I.D.

I have told you this for a long time but have not been able to start a lawsuit to compel the I.I.D. to pay \$4½ millions yearly in taxes because I have been paying the lawsuit expenses to drive out the absentee landowners and to get electricity bills reduced to 1/3 of what they are now. If I could get the \$9,200 yearly salary, I will use it on the lawsuits already started, and will start another lawsuit to compel the I.I.D. to pay \$4½ millions yearly in property taxes so that the tax bills of the homeowners will be cut in half.

Now do not let the propagandists of the big farmers tell you that

the I.I.D. is not supposed to pay taxes. The Imperial Irrigation District pays property taxes on the property it owns in Riverside County. I can give other instances where quasi-public agencies like the I.I.D. pay taxes or in lieu of taxes vast amounts of money.

It would be most instructive to you homeowners to read on page 4, part 1, of the Los Angeles Times of May 10, 1972, the article entitled "NADER LIKENS PROPERTY TAX TO ROBBERY". In testimony before a U.S. Senate Subcommittee, Ralph Nader testified that, "the Gary, Indiana plant of U.S. Steel was underassessed by at least \$110 million and is paying about \$16 million less in property taxes than it should".

So you see how big business at Gary, Indiana oppress the people by making the homeowners pay high property taxes while big business avoids paying its correct property taxes. In Imperial Valley, the big farm interests do not want the I.I.D. to pay the \$4½ millions yearly property tax for this is one of the ways the big farmers are able to get irrigation water at 1/4 the correct price.

The other way they get the cheap water is by the electricity swindle whereby you the average citizen is made to pay 3 times the correct price for electricity. I have already a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. to lower the electricity bills and the \$9,200 salary is needed to pay the legal expenses of this lawsuit also.

My opponents for the Supervisor job will make speeches about "getting industry here". This is all a bunch of nonsense to fool you so that you do not realize that the highest unemployment rate and highest rate for welfare exist in Imperial County--the highest in the State of California. The only thing needed here is that the local people be able to do the farming as proclaimed by the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902. Imperial County is a big agricultural factory and with Coachella Valley has \$50 millions yearly in agricultural profits. Why do you think these very big corporations like Tenneco, Inc., Dow Chemical Co., Purex Corp., United Fruit Co., Irvine Co., Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp., etc. are farming here? There are big profits to be made farming in Imperial & Coachella Valleys.

I have already started lawsuits on this matter and as you all know I won as regards the residency lawsuit which says that only persons living here can do the farming and make the profits. This nonsense that the other candidates talk about is drivel about some pants manufacturer who has 4 factories in Mexicali where he makes 90% of the pants. Then he takes it over to a small factory in Calexico where it is finished up. So he is able to put "made in the U.S.A." on the pants and fools the customers in the United States. He pays only the minimum wage and all the women working in the Calexico factory live in Mexicali, Mexico and spend their wages there. So you can see that this "so-called industry" is no use to the economy of Imperial County and does not solve the unemployment situation here.

My opponents all talk about geothermal development as if it is going to help the residents here. This is all nonsense. If much electricity is gotten from geothermal development, it will go to the coast where there are lots of people. Since the I.I.D. is swindling us on the electricity bills, the little that we will use will not stop the swindling. But my lawsuit will if I get the \$9,200 to pay the lawyers. Finally, if the geothermal development does provide much water, it will do us no good unless we chase the absentee farmers out of here and we do the farming. So you see with my lawsuit to chase them out, we again need the \$9,200 to eliminate the absentee farms.

Tunney Williams, the incumbent Supervisor, has been in office many years. He has done nothing to chase out the absentee farmers, reduce unemployment, lower taxes, etc. I have taken steps to solve all these problems by the lawsuits. That is why The National Broadcasting System and Columbia Broadcasting System have come to Imperial County and made newscasts and a documentary about what I am doing to solve these serious problems. James Hamilton thinks by attacking Cesar Chavez who has nothing to do with these problems, that he is going to solve something. If you want signs painted, I recommend that you get James Hamilton for he has signs all over the 4th District. Sorenson, the final candidate just talks the usual do-nothing nonsense.