

July 25, 1966

FACTS & FALLACIES

The big farmers of the United States have put out much propaganda to influence the thinking of the people. The entire purpose of all this is to create the impression that the big farms (called ranches in the West and plantations in the South) are super-efficient as compared to the small farms; that without the production of the large farms, there would be a shortage of cheap food for the people; that they feed the world, etc. etc.

Since this Newsletter originates in California, it will be to give grass roots information as seen in this State so that fact can be separated from fiction. But there is even a better reason to use California as a basis for the discussion. THE BIGGEST INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA IS FARMING and not motion pictures, airplane manufacturing or electronic manufacturing as might be supposed by reading the daily newspapers. To show how big farming is in California, it is only necessary to know that just 8 counties in the San Joaquin Valley (out of a total of 58 counties in the entire State) have a yearly agricultural production that is greater than 46 of the STATES OF THE U.S. Only Texas, Iowa, and Illinois have a greater production than these 8 California counties.

Then there is another important reason for the use of California as the focal point of the discussion. The vast majority of the irrigation projects built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, have been built in this State by the use of FEDERAL MONEY which the citizens of all the U.S. supplied. Finally, California has the biggest population of all the states and is in the top 5 for actual physical size. So it is felt that the discussion here is applicable to most of the United States.

Think of this situation--suppose General Motors Corporation built a surplus of a million autos purposely. Then suppose the Federal Government bought this million surplus autos each year and stored them in warehouses. You the U.S. taxpayers would provide money by your taxes for the government to buy these surplus autos and also to pay the storage charges on them. In order to decrease the financial burden on you, the Government either tries to sell these autos cheaply at a loss all over the world or even give them away all over the world to save on the storage charges. Would you consider General Motors SUPER-EFFICIENT if it purposely made all these autos TO CREATE THIS SITUATION? OF COURSE, YOU WOULD NOT!!!!

Yet this is exactly what the big farms in California, Arizona, Texas, and the plantations of the South are doing. They grow surplus cotton for which there is no market and the cotton is stored in warehouses. The amount stored in 1966 is at a record high.

The Federal Government attempts to cut production by limiting the acreage planted in cotton. It pays the big farms to take land out of cotton farming. So here is what the big farms do--they accept the money for not planting cotton and plant some other crop on the withdrawn land and make another barrel of money on this deal. In addition, on the land that they are permitted to grow cotton, they purposely add more fertilizer SO THAT THEY GET AN EVEN BIGGER COTTON CROP all of which the Government has to buy and put in storage.

You might logically ask, "Why should the Government help the big farms this way?" The original intent of the Government was to give charity handouts (called price supports, soil conservation, etc

to the great mass of farmers to give them protection so that they could make a living. Many people do not understand that the Federal Government gives protection to manufacturing industries like autos, refrigerators, electrical appliances, farm machinery, etc. by what is called a "HIGH PROTECTIVE TARIFF". This means that there is a big import tax put on such articles from Europe and Asia to prevent these imported manufactures from flooding the U.S. and selling at such cheaper prices. If not prevented, U.S. factories would have to close up and the people in the cities would be thrown out of work. The city merchants would suffer since the unemployed factory workers would not have money to buy.

So farmers & manufacturers get protection from the Federal Government. By the "High Protective tariff", the manufacturers are able to get high enough prices from the U.S. citizens to make a profit. But for the farmers, it is done slightly differently so that the farmers get a high enough price to make a living. The Federal Government guarantees a high enough price for a farm product to the farmer. If the farmer has to sell for less, the Government gives him money to bring his income up to the correct price. The Federal Government gets these "price supports" money it pays the farmers from the income taxes of the citizens of the U.S. In addition, it must not be forgotten that farmers in the U.S. pay high prices for farm machinery and equipment made by U.S. factories.

But the trouble is that the big farmers are super-efficient in mooching most of this "protection money" and prevent the little farmers from getting any or very little. It can be truly said that under present conditions, YOU CAN NOT BE A BIG FARMER UNLESS YOU COLLECT BIG CHARITY HANDOUTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

So the little farmers are being squeezed out by the big ranchers who collect the big "price supports", "soil conservation payments", etc. etc. The big farmers keep on putting out constant propaganda that the little farmers are inefficient in farming but do not tell the American people that the little farmers being unable to get the charity handouts like the big ones, ARE JUST SQUEEZED OUT.

Billie Sol Estes collected $\$1$ million yearly for growing cotton. The Elmore family of Brawley, Calif. collects $\$1$ million for growing cotton each year and the citizens of the U.S. never heard of them. Senator Daniel Brewster of Maryland has repeatedly offered amendments to the Farm Bills in Congress limiting to $\$25,000$ yearly the amount of money that a farmer could receive yearly in "protection money", but these are always defeated. THE BIG FARMERS LOBBY CONSISTING OF BILLIE SOL ESTES, THE ELMORES, DELTA & PINELAND CO. (receives $\$1$ millions yearly) ETC. ALWAYS DEFEAT SENATOR BREWSTER'S AMENDMENT.

So the next time you read that the big farms are super-efficient just remember that they are super-efficient in mooching the charity handouts from the Federal Government and preventing the little farmers from getting the help.

In the Mid-West, the situation is the same for wheat. In the past year, there were crop failures in Russia, China, and India. The Canadians are selling their wheat for cash to Russia and China. The U.S. is practically giving away its surplus wheat to India for nothing. The Storage areas would be at a record high in wheat if India had not had a poor crop. All together, there are about 60 commodities that receive protection and it costs about $\$6$ billions yearly.

Despite the surplus crops, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation puts new land into cultivation by irrigation projects in the Southwest where the land is used to mainly grow more surplus cotton. By law, only little farmers are supposed to farm in these irrigation projects—a husband and wife farming 320 acres. But the Reclamation Bureau refuses to enforce the law in these projects. The big farmers with their big political influence are in these projects and with their ability to mooch most of the charity handouts, are squeezing out the little farmers despite the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902.