

Oct. 28, 1977

THE CHISELERS

SCHURZ'S SLAVE PRESS which consists of the El Centro IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS and the Brawley BRAWLEY NEWS, and the Indio INDIO NEWS, in an editorial is again brainwashing the readers as to why Robert Meyer had to resign as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. The editorial says, "Though noble his cause" in referring to Meyer's attempts to sabotage the enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law in Imperial Valley. It also tries to equate Meyer's resignation to that of Bert Lance.

This is completely untrue. Bert Lance was never accused of anything wrong while in office. Lance was attacked for what he did before entering the Carter administration. But Meyer was attacked FOR WHAT HE DID WHILE IN OFFICE. There is a big difference. Furthermore, SCHURZ'S SLAVE PRESS which is a slave to the big farm interests has never revealed what Robert Meyer really did while in office.

Here is the report of the Fresno (Calif.) Bee of Oct. 7, 1977.

USDA PAID FOR TRIP OF LOBBYING FARMERS

By George L. Baker, Bee Washington Bureau

Washington--Two Imperial Valley farmers who accompanied Robert H. Meyer on a lobbying mission of government officials had their transportation to Washington paid for by the Department of Agriculture, a department document shows.

The reimbursement was disclosed in the department's official report to the White House of allegations that Meyer, an assistant secretary of agriculture, spent Sept. 15 lobbying in behalf of himself and other farmers for changes in the reclamation law.

Taking part in the activities were Donald Cox, a trustee of the blind trust Meyer established when he came to Washington, and his brother-in-law, John R. Benson, both of Brawley.

The report showed that the two were participating in a department sponsored seminar the weekend of Sept. 17-18 in Pennsylvania and that they came to Washington early.

They were paid round trip expenses from California of about \$406 plus \$80 each for the two days at the "think tank" which involved most of the department's high level officials.

Their participation in the meeting was recommended by Meyer, according to the report, which said they decided to come to Washington early to visit a number of members of Congress and other administration officials.

The above information was not given in SCHURZ'S SLAVE PRESS editorial of Oct. 22, 1977 or its news columns before or after the editorial. So you can see that this SLAVE PRESS is keeping a News Blackout on Meyer, Benson, and Cox chiseling the government out of about \$1,000 to pay for their trip to lobby in Washington. You will recall that SCHURZ'S SLAVE PRESS printed an editorial of a Tyler(Tex) newspaper which was against enforcement of the 160 acres limitation and that newspaper is thousands of miles away. Yet the Fresno Bee news is just 300 miles away in California and the SLAVE PRESS runs a blackout on this news.

The big farmers are full of gimmicks to chisel the Federal Government. It is like the Federal Income Tax, you have to make a lot of money to be able to take advantage of the gimmicks called loopholes. So it is interesting to know that Donald Cox collected for many years about \$111,000 from the Federal Government for doing nothing--not growing cotton. The Benson farm collected for many years \$141,000 like many farms also for doing nothing-- not growing cotton. But both Cox and Benson also collected other Federal handouts for growing sugar beets, milo, etc. Now John Benson went to college and came out a lawyer but immediately saw that the farming business was more lucrative and you had to do less work than being a lawyer. Robert Meyer latched on to this gold mine by marrying the boss's daughter. Finally, the taxpayers learned about these big farmers getting such big handouts for doing nothing--not growing cotton. Protests flooded Congress and

Congress stopped this.

In the final year of 1970, Robert Meyer and his brother-in-law John Benson, and their family collected \$195,823 for not growing cotton- for doing nothing- from the Federal Government. When this is added to other handouts they got, it all amounts to about \$275,000 in 1970. The new law said that each farm could get a handout of \$20,000 for each different crop in one year. Since all the big farmers grew cotton and beets on which they get big handouts, they all began to grow wheat here in large amounts so that they should be able to collect \$20,000 per year on the wheat also as a handout. So just for cotton, beets, wheat and not counting lesser handouts, a big farmer could collect \$60,000 per year.

But this was not enough for Robert Meyer and John Benson and the other big farmers. They started another gimmick to chisel the Federal Government. Meyer, his mother-in-law, and John Benson divided the big farm up into 3 parts, so each one could collect handouts of \$60,000 per farm for a grand total of \$180,000 for the entire family in one year. Now the Benson family and the other big farmers are not bad people. They just do what everyone else does with his income tax-takes advantage of every loophole.

But out of the 830 farms in Imperial Valley 449 (54%) are below 179 acres. They are unable to collect any handouts and have to struggle for a living. So since there is a law which says that one person can get water to farm 160 acres and the Federal Appeal Court has given the decision that the law should be enforced, you can see how the little farmers will be able to get more farmland and get a chance to collect the handouts. So you can see that Robert Meyer is not resigning as SCHURZ'S SLAVE PRESS said as a "matter of conscience" but as a matter of pocketbook because he wants to lead the fight to stop enforcement of the 160 acres limitation per person. A family of mother, father and 2 children would be entitled to farm 640 acres, and a family of 6 can legally farm 960 acres. THE LIMIT IS NOT 160 ACRES PER FAMILY!!!

It also must be realized that one acre here is equal in yearly production to 5 acres in Kansas, 6 acres in North Dakota and 4 acres in Georgia. The reason for this is that the season is 12 months and 2½ crops are grown in 12 months. Kansas has a 5 month and North Dakota 3 month growing season. The soil here gives also 2½ times the yield in other parts of the U.S. because this place is desert and the sun is out every day. In addition, the irrigation water is supplied by the All-American Canal which was built by the Federal Government. Since 1942 when the canal was completed, there has been no failure in water supply. FARMERS ELSEWHERE SUFFER FROM TOO LITTLE RAIN OR TOO MUCH, ETC.

President Jimmy Carter's 3,000 acre farm is a good example to show the troubles other farmers have. His 3,000 acres farm is equivalent to a farm of 750 acres here in yearly production. This year, 1977, there has been a drought in the area of his farm, and the President's farm has lost much money. You can therefore realize how the Federal Government with your tax money has built the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal and as many persons as possible should benefit from this farmland.

In 1967, 115 big farmers were caught swindling the government out of \$2.8 millions in the handouts on sugar beets. This is about \$24,000 per big farmer. The government was going to deduct the amounts from the "not growing cotton" handouts. The big farmers ran to the politicians claiming they were poverty stricken and not to make the deductions. The big farmers are doing the same running to the politicians now to prevent enforcement of the 160 acres limitation. SCHURZ'S SLAVE PRESS would not even print the names of the big farmers. But if a person on welfare swindles on \$250, his name is printed in the newspaper and he is taken to court. So you see the big farmers even chisel on JUSTICE.

Big farmers like Meyer, Benson, Cox, the Flemings, the Elmore, etc own only 15% of the land here. But in their greed have united with the absentee landowners who include the Irvine Co. Purex, Southern Pacific Land Co., Tenneco, Inc. etc. who own 70% of the land. All these chisellers have formed an organization named CALL FOR FAIRNESS which has hired a public relations firm. About \$250,000 has already been spent to fool the people of the United States. The true name of this campaign is CALL FOR CHISELING. Enforcement of the Reclamation Law will drive out the absentee landowners and enforce the 160 acres limit.