

Feb. 27, 1968

BENSON & HASS ARE POISON TO YOUR POCKETBOOKS

On April 9, 1968 (Tuesday), there is going to be the important election to vote for 3 men to be Councilmen of the City of Brawley.

JOHN BENSON AND J. LAWRENCE HASS ARE CANDIDATES. YOU ARE STRONGLY URGED NOT TO VOTE FOR THEM. THEY ARE THE WORST OF THE 12 CANDIDATES. THEY ARE POISON TO THE POCKETBOOKS OF ALL WORKING PEOPLE, BUSINESSMEN, AND MERCHANTS!!!!

They have the money of the big ranchers behind them and will spend more money than all the other candidates combined to fool you into voting for them. They will have the Brawley News on their side because they will buy so much advertising in this newspaper which is part of SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS. Schurz and his Press will not print the truth so that you are unable to know who Benson and Hass are and whom they represent--THE BIG RANCH INTERESTS!!!

So be sure and give this Newsletter to some other voter so that the citizen learn the truth about Benson & Hass. Here is the information that you will only find in this Newsletter.

John Benson is the President of the Jack Benson Ranches. He did not build this farming corporation up. HE JUST INHERITED IT. The official Federal Government records show that the Jack Benson Ranches received a charity handout called "land diversion" of \$140,576 in 1966. It is too early to tell you the handout in 1967 but the amount will be about the same.

The County Welfare Dept. gives a handout of about \$400.00 yearly for the support of a child who has no father to support it because of death, absence or disability. For dependent children, a woman gets \$4,000 per year for 10 children as the natural mother or as a foster mother just boarding them. The woman has to board, feed, clothe, and take care of these 10 children. So you can readily see that there is a lot of work connected with it.

John Benson gets the \$140,576 each year and this is the amount of money needed to support 351 children yearly. He does nothing that looks like work for this money. He just agrees not to plant a certain amount of land for cotton growing. Instead he plants some other crop like alfalfa on the land and creates a surplus in this crop so that a little farmer who can not get "Cotton allotments" and can only grow alfalfa, finds it difficult to sell at a good price. So John Benson gets the money from the Federal Government and is able to squeeze out the little farmer.

But this is not all. The farmland of John Benson escapes \$30,000 yearly in county property taxes so that you homeowners and businessmen and merchants have to pay extra county taxes to make up for him. The poor farmland escapes \$90,000 yearly in water bills. The big ranchers

escape \$14 millions yearly in water bills for irrigation of their farm-lands. They control the Imperial Irrigation District which charges the working people, the businessmen, and merchants 3 times more for the electricity so that big ranchers like Benson will get the irrigation water at 1/4 the correct cost.

Each family has extorted from it from \$100.00 to \$250.00 yearly in electricity bills so that big RANCHERS LIKE JOHN BENSON CAN GET the irrigation water at 1/4 the correct cost. This electricity swindle affects not only all of Imperial County but also the Indio and Coachella areas in Riverside County where the I.I.D. distributes electricity.

I have been putting out Newsletters for many years about how the citizens of Brawley and the other towns are being swindled on electricity amounting to \$100 to \$250 yearly per family. The City of Calexico has been stimulated to protest this swindle and the City Council of that city is taking action. My Newsletters have been going to Indio for the past 3 years and now the City Council of Indio is beginning to take action. On the City Council of Brawley are needed Councilmen who will vote for hiring an outside lawyer from Los Angeles or San Francisco to bring a lawsuit against the I.I.D. to force the correct rates of irrigation water and for electricity.

John Benson likes to escape paying \$90,000 annually for irrigation water. He will not vote to hire a lawyer to start a lawsuit which will force him to pay the \$90,000. When he and the other big ranchers pay their correct water bills, then and only then is it possible for you to get electricity bills which are 1/3 that you are paying now. If you have a \$9.00 bill, it will become \$3.00, if your bill now is \$15.00, it will drop to \$5.00, and if \$30.00, it will go down to \$10.00, etc.

J. Lawrence Hass is not a big farmer. He was the manager of the Brawley Bank of America. HE NEVER GOT A CHARITY HANDOUT FROM THE GOVERNMENT. But unfortunately like many of us who have a wife and children to support, we often have to act as a stooge or starve. In order to be promoted to higher jobs in the Bank of America in rural communities, an employee of the Bank of America must be a stooge for the big ranchers or lose his job.

This is the story of Hass. He will personally profit if the electricity prices are markedly reduced since he is not a farmer. But the big ranchers are pushing him for Councilman. Robert B. Wilson, Jr. of 297 West G St. Brawley is the circulator who went around getting signatures on the nomination paper so Hass could run.

Robert Wilson has not got the guts to run for Councilman himself. He puts up Hass who thereby has to be attacked in this Newsletter. Go and look at the expensive big home of Wilson, the big rancher. His ranch received according to official Government figures \$45,672 in 1966 and he will receive a similar amount in 1967. This was "land diversion" and is the amount of money needed to support 114 children.

The same applies to Wilson that was told about John Benson as regards escaping county property taxes on the farmland and water bills. It must be definitely understood that "land diversion" handouts are not the only handouts the big ranchers receive. They also receive "price supports", "beet Payments", etc. and also 75% of the cost of putting in concrete ditches on their farmland (given by the I.I.D.).

You taxpayers of Brawley should also know that the big ranchers are running 2 big rackets in Brawley itself. We are supporting with our taxes an expensive airport and an expensive rodeo park. Your garbage collection, water taxes, and city property taxes, are very high because you are paying about \$75,000 per year to support the airport and rodeo park. THE CITY TREASURY IS PLOUNDERED FOR THE RICH!!!

The City is running horse stables and you are paying for a baby sitter for the wealthy kids' horses in Rodeo park. Ed Rutherford parks his trucks and horses there. At the airport, the wealthy ranchers do not pay enough rent for the airport. The big ranchers with offices do not pay enough rent for the airport. The big ranchers with offices do not pay enough rent for the airport. THE CITY DOES NOT PAY OCCUPATIONAL TAXES. DO NOT VOTE FOR BENSON & HASS