

NEWS LETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN

Brawley, Calif.

Oct. 7, 1960

I AM A CANDIDATE AT THE NOV. 8th ELECTION FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE PIONEERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

All of you have heard of the Mercy Hospital of San Diego and the Presbyterian Hospital and Cedars of Lebanon Hospital of Los Angeles. When a patient goes into these hospitals, he has to pay high prices. Yet despite all this, at the end of the year these hospitals have big deficits and people make voluntary contributions to make up the deficit.

Now let us return to Imperial Valley. We have the County Hospital which is tax supported. This means that "forced contributions" are taken from the taxpayers. Yet the people who pay these "forced donations" are not permitted to go into the County Hospital because they are "too rich".

Now the Pioneers Memorial Hospital is also tax supported. Yet many of the taxpayers who make "forced donations" to this hospital tell me that they do not want to go to the hospital because it is too expensive like the Mercy and the Los Angeles hospitals. So there are lots of taxpayers who are "too poor to get in" the Pioneers Memorial Hospital.

I want to make the Pioneers Memorial Hospital an in-between hospital---between the County Hospital and the Los Angeles and Mercy Hospitals. You must admit that most people are not too poor or too rich---they are just in-between.

Here is the idea. Suppose you go into Pioneers and your bill amounts to \$300.00. You will pay \$200.00 and the other \$100.00 will be paid out of property taxes. This will help the in-between people. It will also help those who have sickness insurance policies which pay \$10.00 to \$15.00 a day while in the hospital. Suppose your bill for one day is \$45.00. The bill to you will be \$30.00 that you will have to pay out of your own pocket. But since you have a sickness policy which pays \$10.00 to \$15.00 per day to you, the amount of money that you will actually have to pay to the hospital is \$10.00 or \$15.00.

Now where is the tax money coming from to pay for part of the hospital bill? The Pioneers Memorial Hospital District covers a big territory which includes a lot of farmland. Absentee landowners own about \$50,000,000 in farmland on which the assessed valuation is much lower than city property. These absentee landowners are not paying the correct property taxes on this farmland. The correct assessed valuation must be put on this farmland and the increased taxes will pay the hospital bills. Do not forget city inhabitants that you are paying very high taxes to make up for the taxes that the big landowners do not pay. You are not getting any benefits from your tax payments.

The Board of Directors of the Pioneers Memorial Hospital District from the time it was started, has consisted of local big landowners and their allies. The absentee landowners and the big local landowners, of course, will not want to pay higher taxes. That is why I should be elected. At later elections, other candidates will run to displace all the Directors who favor the big landowners.