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EARL OF HAREWOOD ADMITS ADULTERY

On Jan. 3, 1967, newspapers all over the U.S. printed that Lord Harewood "a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, announced his wife is divorcing him and that he wants to marry the woman whose child he fathered in 1964!" (Los Angeles Times)

Now why should such a news item be publicized to the residents of Imperial County, Calif.? The reason is that the Earl of Harewood is a big rancher (farmer) in England and that his family's story with its 29,000 acres estate (this is what a big ranch is called in England) will be interesting by its comparisons to conditions in Imperial County. There was no farm machinery on these feudal estates.

Now to give you an idea how much 29,000 acres are, it is approximately 8 miles by 6 miles. This estate is in Northern England. The early Earls were feudal Lords several hundred years ago. As such, they were the Judges, the Sheriffs and the Tax Collectors on their estates. They often held authority in adjoining areas where they were appointed by the King. On the estates, thousands of ordinary people lived who were called peasants.

What is described for England also holds true for the other countries of Europe. The Lords were the big farmers. That portion of their estates which could be farmed, was farmed by the peasants who ordinarily collected one day's harvest per week of harvesting for their payment for working. The rest went to the Lord. Then land not good for agriculture, was used for grazing cattle. So the Lord was a big cattleman. Barren areas of the estate were used for grazing sheep. This made the Lord a big sheepman.

Many of the Lords did not live on their estates but lived in the cities where the King was holding court. The Lords were the courtiers which is a polite way of saying "Yes men" or "Stooges". Some would leave the King's court and go with other Noblemen to their estates to do some hunting and also see if the estate was being managed properly so that they could collect big profits to spend in high living when they were in the big cities.

Now in Imperial County, there is almost a replica of what went on in feudal times and is still going on in several countries of Europe where Lords own the land. 70% of the land is owned by absentee landowners in Imperial County. This is very close to what went on 200 to 300 years ago with the feudal estates. The land is being used by the absentee landowners here for farming, cattle grazing, sheep grazing, and hunting.

There was one difference however. Most of these estates had forests also. Here the Lord would hunt but in addition would have gangs of woodchoppers cutting wood for firewood and also to use for sale for construction of homes, etc. The Lord was also a big lumberman by owning forests.

The peasants were permitted by the Lords to farm little patches of ground to grow vegetables for their own use. The farmworkers also raised chickens and pigs for their own use. Money was not available

to peasants in those days. They used to barter to get things they needed. But the Lord was also the Tax Collector. If he needed money or food products, he proclaimed a tax and sent out his men who were protected by soldiers of the private army of the Lord, to collect the tax. The tax collectors usually grabbed chickens, pigs, grain, etc. in payment of the tax. There was no one who could oppose the Lord by saying the tax was unfair.

In Imperial County, the same situation is true regarding taxes. The absentee landowners control the County Board of Supervisors and the County Assessor-Collector so that there are fake low assessments on the farmland. Then the farmland is attached for tax purposes for education to small rural school districts. The net result of all this is that many big ranches escape 85% of their taxes. We the residents of Imperial County in the role of the peasants have to pay heavy taxes to make up for the absentee landowners.

But the big ranches here have something that the Lords did not have in feudal times. It is modern extortion. The big farmers control the Imperial Irrigation District which sells irrigation water to the ranches and electricity to the people. We, the people, have to pay 3 times the correct price of electricity to subsidize the big farms who get their irrigation water at $\frac{1}{4}$ the correct price.

The Lords got all the profits and the absentee landowners who are the ranchers take out \$15 millions yearly in profits because the residents are prevented from farming here. If the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902 was enforced, there would not be any absentee landowners. The land here would have no value without the water. The U.S. Reclamation Law says that a person getting Federal water for farming, he must live here. A husband and wife can farm 320 acres.

So here is a recapitulation of the main rackets of the big landowners just as the Lords used to exploit the peasants. Loss of profits to inhabitants of Imperial County-- \$15 millions yearly. Loss in county tax swindle-- \$8 millions. Loss in exorbitant electricity bills--\$14 millions. This totals \$37 millions yearly and shows modern robber land Barons are better exploiters than the feudal barons.

Along the line of Justice, the feudal Lords could do no wrong since they were the Judges and Sheriffs. There was only one exception and that was treason to the King. In Imperial County, the Judges, the District Attorney, and the Sheriff are elected by the money furnished by the big ranchers. The registration of voters in Imperial County is 60% Democrats. Yet the Grand Jury always has the Republicans in overwhelming majority. So you can see why a big rancher is never indicted for a crime. Nor are the stooges of the big ranch interests indicted. There has never been a Grand Jury where the Democrats were in the majority. 95% of the big ranchers are Republican so that the Grand Jury which they control will never investigate the tax swindle, the electricity swindle or the other rackets of the big ranches.

Winston Churchill in 1905 recognizing the evil influence of the big landowners in England, said, "Land monopoly is the mother of all monopoly". The monopoly on the land and also on Justice is being broken in England. Enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law in Imperial County will break the monopoly on water, land and Justice.

In the feudal days and even up to about World War I, peasants had to get permission from their Lords to marry. Lords like the Earl of Harewood were not divorced by their wives when the Lord committed adultery. As a matter of fact there was the JUS PRIMA NOCTE (the right of the first night) where the Lord could sleep with a new bride if he desired her. The Lords could commit adultery with all the new brides if they desired or had the strength. This was a RIGHT OF A LORD. Nobody could stop him. Enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law here is needed so that the Imperial County Land Barons are brought to Justice. ONE STANDARD OF JUSTICE FOR ALL.