

July 14, 1979

CRANSTON'S CROOKED CAPIER

Those who read President John F. Kennedy's PROFILES IN COURAGE were inspired by the histories of public officials who did their duty despite intense pressures. But the realities of life show that there are others who do not have the courage. U.S. Senator Alan Cranston from California who has posed all his political life as a liberal Democrat, does not have the courage portrayed in President Kennedy's book. This profile on the lack of courage by Senator Cranston will tell the skullduggery that he has done for the benefit of big multinational corporations and big corporations that are not multinational. It will show how the little people after struggling through the Federal Courts for ten years without the help of Senator Cranston, finally won out in favor of enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902.

THEN ONLY TO BE MET BY SENATOR CRANSTON LEADING THE BIG LAND-OWNERS WANTING TO CHANGE THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAW WHEN THEY WERE DEFEATED IN THE COURTS BY THE LITTLE PEOPLE.

The U.S. Reclamation Law applies to the seventeen western states including all of Texas. But California got 80% of the Reclamation projects so that it creates 10% of the agricultural production of the U.S. which at the latest report was \$95 billions. Most of the growing areas have 2 crops yearly. But Imperial County where Brawley is, gets 2½ crops yearly. Because of these reclamation projects in California, the cotton farmers of the Deep South have been badly hurt as it has only one crop a year. In Imperial County, a farmer having an 160 acres farm is equivalent to the production of 800 acres in Kansas and in Georgia to 640 acres of President Carter's farmland.

Every year, California is second to Texas in cotton production. Several years ago, it was first. But in Texas, that is the crop for the year whereas in California there is one more crop. California is where, big farms were being paid \$2 to \$3 millions a year to set aside farmland and not grow cotton. The Elmore farm in Imperial County used to collect about \$1 million yearly for the same thing.

Imperial County is run like some of these Central American countries. The big landowners control everyone. They have 2 rackets whereby they escape 66% of the farmland taxes. Then there is an electricity swindle whereby the residents pay 3 times the correct price for electricity so that the local Imperial Irrigation District, a public agency, can subsidize the farmland to get irrigation water at 1/4 the correct price. These 2 rackets defraud the local people of \$25 millions yearly. There are several other lesser rackets. The Mafia should come down here and learn how to do extortion and make it look legal.

The skullduggery by the big farmland owners and by Senator Cranston can be best shown by review of how the little people tried to get enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law and thereby also stop the oppression and extortion. Dr. Yellen soon found out that nobody could sign a petition for he would lose his job or lose his business. The local newspapers under the control of the power structure would print nothing and would not print Dr. Yellen's Letters to the Editor. So he started the Newsletter such as you are now reading. He would walk the streets with a sack on his shoulder carrying the Newsletters and putting them under windshield wipers. He himself was under boycott, thrown out of the hospital, frequently arrested, and many others things too many to mention in this Newsletter.

After about 3 years of walking the streets distributing his Newsletters, Dr. Yellen ran for election as Assessor-Collector of the Imperial Irrigation District against the incumbent on a platform that a vote for Yellen meant that the voter wanted the U.S. Reclamation Law enforced. To this day, the Board of Supervisors controlled by the big farm interests, refuses to put on the ballot the question, "Do you want the U.S. Reclamation Law enforced?"

Senator Alan Cranston knows what the situation is. Yet he is actively pushing Senator Frank Church's bill S14 for a vote in the week beginning July 16, 1979. This is a steamroller action to get the U.S. Senate to vote without the residents of Imperial County voting their wish. Can you imagine such skullduggery from a U.S. Senator who has always made speeches as if he were a ultra liberal Democrat?

Now this election for Assessor-Collector was 16 years ago on Feb. 6, 1963. The Interior Dept. and many officials had been sent Newsletters telling about this election to get the opinion of the people. The campaign of Dr. Yellen was under a complete news blackout by the newspapers, radio stations, and TV station. The only way the people could know about his campaign was by the distribution of home made Newsletters just like this one you are reading. The results were that 27% of the voters wanted enforcement and that was 16 years ago.

The Interior Dept. was persuaded by this election to start the lawsuit United States v. Imperial Irrigation District. Yet Judge Turrentine who had a conflict of interests, despite a unanimous vote by the U.S. Supreme Court for enforcement in a similar lawsuit, Ivanhoe Irrigation District v. McCracken, gave an adverse decision against enforcement.

Ex-Congressman Victor Veysey publicly announced that he was going to Deputy Attorney General Kleindienst so that the Justice Dept. would not appeal. Dr. Yellen and his lawyer, Arthur Brunwasser, who just does a general practice of law, realized about 3 weeks before the time limit to make an appeal, that the Justice Dept. was not going to appeal. So they stepped in to become intervenors to make the appeal. Judge Turrentine refused to permit them to become intervenors. This refusal was appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco. Senator Alan Cranston was a Senator at this time. As expected, the political fix had been made with the corrupt Watergate gang of the Nixon Administration, and the Justice Dept. made no appeal. Where was Cranston who had always been idolized by the ultra liberal Democrats of California especially so since the Justice Dept. refused to give any reason for failing to appeal? He made no public statement for the little people.

The 9th Circuit Court gave Dr. Yellen and his 123 little people the right to be intervenors for before they had been friends of the court and never expected the Justice Dept. to quit. On August 19, 1977, the 9th Circuit Court gave a verdict in favor of the enforcement of the 160 acres limitation for one person. Since that time, Senator Cranston has been acting very coy saying he is making up his mind as what to do.

But the big landowners had hired the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, probably the biggest in California with 240 lawyers, all specialists. The big landowners had entered the lawsuit as intervenors very early. This law firm has offices also in Washington, D.C. It is supposed to be ultra ethical. But in 1965, it sent one of its water lawyers, Allyn Kreps to Imperial County. He went around making speeches to the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc. as to why there should not be enforcement. Dr. Yellen has never been permitted to address these clubs. So he just puts Newsletters under the windshields of the autos of the members of these clubs when they listen to Kreps and others like him.

All of a sudden, Allyn Kreps shows up on the staff of Senator Cranston. Cranston tells the reporters that Kreps is his foreign relations advisor. But Kreps is only a water lawyer, what does he know about foreign relations? Senator Cranston is not on the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate. The Fresno (Calif) Bee has an article on how Allyn Kreps with Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Robert Meyer of Brawley were caught lobbying to exempt Imperial County from enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law. This article was printed Sept. 29, 1977 just one month after the 9th Circuit Court decided for enforcement. So Senator Cranston has Senator Church whose state does not have many Reclamation projects introducing S14 while Cranston remains hidden.