

NEWSLETTER FROM DR. BEN YALLEN  
Brawley, Calif.

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# THE HIDDEN ELECTRICITY BILL !!!

You have been repeatedly told in these Newsletters that the IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT of Imperial County Calif. which is controlled by the big farm interests is swindling you of \$14 millions yearly in exorbitant electricity bills.

It was explained to you that the big ranchers should pay \$9.00 per acrefoot for water but instead were only charged \$2.00 per acrefoot and thereby paying only 1/4 of the correct price. Who are the big ranchers? There are only a few local ones. MOST OF THEM ARE ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS. You, the people of this area who are workers, merchants, and businessmen and your families were being charged 3 times the correct price for electricity so that the Imperial Irrigation District would be able to sell the irrigation water to the big farm interests at 1/4 the correct price.

The Virgil Pinkley chain of newspapers in El Centro, Brawley and Calexico, have been frequently attacked in these Newsletters as PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS because it would not investigate and print articles about this electricity swindle and other important matters like the U.S. Reclamation Law with its limitation of 320 acres farm for husband and wife, etc. But about 3 years ago, a newspaper company from South Bend, Ind. bought majority control of the newspapers. Repeated complaints were sent to this Indiana company so that in the past 2 years, the newspapers in Imperial County are printing articles about these serious problems. The news coverage is still slanted but at least there has been a great improvement to what was going on previously.

One of the big improvements is the column called PROBE in the 3 local newspapers. People write in complaining of certain matters and reporters are sent out to question people who know about the matter in question. The answer is then given in PROBE.

In the June 26, 1967 issue of these papers, somebody from El Centro wrote in complaining about the termination of the water tax while the electricity bills continue to be exorbitant. All you readers are advised to go to the libraries in Brawley, El Centro and Calexico and read PROBE of that date. The reporter who wrote this article went to the Imperial Irrigation District for information. What he wrote is not true. Vital information is left out.

Now this is not the fault of the reporter or the newspapers. They expected that the Imperial Irrigation District would give the truth and not leave out important information. They did not know that the I.I.D. is always putting out lies, distorting the truth, and omitting vital facts so that you users of electricity should not be able to learn how you are being swindled out of \$14 millions yearly in electricity bills.

So it was written in PROBE of that date, that Palm Springs which is just as hot as Brawley, El Centro, and Calexico, and has to use airconditioning for the 110 degrees summer desert heat, would be used for comparison. PROBE stated that an "average user" in Palm Springs in the summer would pay \$38.94 for electricity. But the average user here would pay \$38.30. That here, the user would pay 64 cents less. THIS IS A BIG LIE!!! You were not told.

about the "HIDDEN ELECTRICITY BILL" !!!

The Southern California Edison Co. which sells the electricity in Palm Springs is privately owned (investor owned). As such, it pays very heavy taxes on its property to the County of Riverside and to the City of Palm Springs. The "OPEN BILL FOR ELECTRICITY" that the Palm Springs resident gets monthly has included in it the expenses incurred by the Southern California Edison Co. in paying the heavy property taxes. So the residents of Palm Springs when they get their property tax bills from the City of Palm Springs, Riverside County, schools, and special districts in November of each year, DO NOT have to pay extra property taxes to make up for the So. Calif. Edison Co. which has paid its property taxes in full. There is no "HIDDEN ELECTRICITY BILL" in these tax bills they receive.

But here, you receive each month the "OPEN BILL FOR ELECTRICITY". It does not contain the expenses of paying the tax bills for property by the Imperial Irrigation District to the County, to the Cities, to the schools and to the special districts. THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT IS NOT AN INVESTOR OWNED UTILITY AND HAS NOT BEEN PAYING LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES.

So when you residents of Imperial County get your property tax bills from the County, Cities, schools, and special districts, in November of each year, you have to pay extra taxes to make up for the I.I.D. In these property tax bills that come yearly is the "HIDDEN ELECTRICITY BILL" which you pay in the form of the extra taxes to make up for the I.I.D. The District has been escaping \$4.7 millions yearly in property taxes. So you residents pay \$4.7 millions extra for electricity which has been concealed in the property tax bills SO THAT YOU SHOULD NOT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON.

This is how the reporter and the local newspapers were fooled into printing a bunch of lies in PROBE of June 26, 1967. The I.I.D. just did not tell the reporter about the "HIDDEN ELECTRICITY BILL".

So that you understand this better, take the resident in El Centro. When the new electric generating plant is completed in this city, the city property tax on the new plant plus that on the old plant plus that on the substations, transformers, and electric lines of the I.I.D. should be \$500,000.00 yearly. The City of El Centro is going to have a budget of \$2.9 millions for 1967-68. The State and Federal governments will give the city \$2.1 millions in the form of sales tax receipts, gasoline tax receipts, etc. etc. The property owners of El Centro will have to pay \$800,000.00 to make up the difference. But if the Imperial Irrigation District was forced to pay its \$500,000.00 property tax to the City, the other residents will have to pay only \$300,000.00 resulting in a 62% reduction in taxes to them. The taxpayers in the other cities will make similar savings depending on the amount of property of the I.I.D.

If the I.I.D. is made to pay property taxes to the County, Cities, schools, and special districts, everyone will have big savings in their property taxes. The District is now paying property taxes in Riverside County where it has electric lines, transformers, and substations. The Salt River Project which is the irrigation District around Phoenix, Ariz. was pulling the same kind of electricity swindle in the selling of irrigation water and electric power. But the people finally revolted and forced the Salt River Project to pay property taxes and in this way lighten the load of the electricity swindle. The City of Los Angeles was forced to pay property taxes on the Owens River Aqueduct in Inyo and Mono Counties. It not only pays on the dams and the big pipes but also personal property taxes on the water stored behind the dams.

Dr. Yellen is now going to start a campaign to put the I.I.D. on the tax rolls of the County and various cities so that the "HIDDEN ELECTRICITY BILL" is stopped. Explain to your friends how they have to pay extra electricity bills hidden in the property taxes. The Imperial Irrig. Dist. is the biggest property owner in the county. Another Newsletter will tell more on the SWINDLING!!!