

NEWSLETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN  
Brawley, Calif.

Oct. 21, 1968

The Fair Campaign Practices Committee  
328 Pennsylvania Ave S.E.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

I am the Democratic candidate for Assemblyman of the 75th District in California in the coming election on Nov. 5, 1968. I wish to file charges of unfair campaign practices against Victor Veysey, Republican, who is the incumbent in this office and particularly his supporters the newspapers.

AS A NATIONAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, WHO HAVE INVESTIGATED MANY SUCH CHARGES IN THE PAST, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THESE UNFAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES BY VICTOR VEYSEY AND HIS COHORTS PARTICULARLY THE NEWSPAPERS, ARE UNIQUE IN THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CURTAIN OF SILENCE MAINTAINED ON THE ISSUES IN THIS CAMPAIGN BY THE NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO SO THAT THE 200,000 PEOPLE IN THIS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT DO NOT HEAR OR SEE ANY OF MY STATEMENTS ON THE LOCAL ISSUES VIA THE NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO.

As your Committee will investigate these charges most likely after the election, your published statements about this unique situation will fail to help me in this election. The only other major newspapers distributed in the 75th District are the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Examiner.

The voters must be wondering why they do not hear or see any statements of mine. The radio stations do not have reporters. The news broadcast about local events like elections is done by the radio station announcer just reading excerpts or entire articles from the San Diego Union, Riverside Enterprise, and Franklin Schurz's 3 newspapers the Indio News, the Brawley News, and the El Centro Post-Press, all of which specialize in giving local news.

The Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Examiner on rare occasions if the local news seems to be of some unusual significance, will print. So immediately, I suggest that you put out a press release via AP and UPI directed to the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Examiner so that my charges will be printed and the voters will at least know that I am claiming a blackout on the news of my political activities and statements. Such a press release on your part of course does not mean that you agree with my charges. It just means that I am alive enough to file unfair campaign practices charges against Victor Veysey and his allies, the validity of which will be decided by future investigation since time is too short before the election.

The expression "am alive enough" is used advisedly because the opposition has spread a rumor that I was killed in an auto accident and the local mortuary, local police station and local radio station were flooded with telephone calls just a week ago by people trying to learn the truth. The rumor was then changed to Dr. Yellen was out gallivanting with a married woman when the auto accident occurred and that Dr. Yellen is trying to hush it up because he did not want his wife to hear about it.

But I am not writing this letter because of such rumors. I am complaining about much more serious unfair campaign practices. To give the voters the information that I think they should know before voting, I have been putting out home made mimeographed leaflets just like the one you are now reading which is also being distributed. I make up these Newsletters and with many of them in a sack slung on my

shoulder, I walk the streets of the cities and towns in the 75th District leaving my leaflets at homes, stores, autos, to persons, etc.

Enclosed with this mimeographed letter, are the leaflets that have been distributed so far. Their titles are THANK YOU RANK & FILE REPUBLICANS, VEYSEY THE LEECH, SENIOR CITIZENS, VOTERS OF BLYTHE, RIPLEY, & PALO VERDE, VICTOR VEYSEY AN UGLY AMERICAN, NEWS BLACKOUT, AND VEYSEY & REAGAN ARE TWO LEECHES.

Careful perusal of these leaflets will show you the serious issues that I bring up in this campaign and which the San Diego Union, the Riverside Enterprise and the Schurz newspapers will not print. But you must realize that the San Diego Union has a circulation of 215,000 and the Riverside Enterprise has 40,000. The total of the 3 Schurz papers in the very center of the 75th District is 30,000. The allies of Veysey are Herb Klein of the San Diego Union who is a director of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and Franklin D. Schurz of the South Bend, Indiana Tribune, circulation 120,000, who until this year was on the Board of Directors Executive Committee of the Associated Press.

Herb Klein is on leave of absence from the San Diego Union and is now acting as the Press Chief for Richard Nixon in his Presidential campaign but the policy of Klein against me is being carried on. If Mr. Nixon should become President, there is little doubt that Klein will continue as his Press Chief. Last year I bombarded the Associated Press with complaints against Schurz and he was dropped from the Board of Directors. Schurz in order to avoid my criticism has turned the 3 local papers over to his son but from afar he is still really the person responsible for the CURTAIN OF SILENCE against me.

If it was only a matter of small town rural Editors and Publishers who are operating on limited finances, I would not complain because they must bow down to the big ranchers who are the power structure in the 75th District for otherwise they will be ruined.

Furthermore, the Assembly District consists of 5,400 square miles of Riverside County and 4,284 sq. miles of Imperial County for a grand total of about 9,700 square miles and has 200,000 people. Just contrast it with the State of RHODE ISLAND which is 1,057 sq. miles in size and has about 860,000 people.

I am 5 feet 4½ inches in height and my legs are not long enough for me to walk over an area which is 9 times the area of Rhode Island. My opponent Mr. Veysey, the Leech, has the entire District covered with big leased roadside illuminated signs. He has many smaller signs along the roadside implanted on the land of the big ranchers who of course will not permit me to put any signs on their land.

I DO NOT HAVE ONE ROADSIDE SIGN LEASED OR HOME MADE. THIS IS UNIQUE FOR I NEVER HEARD OF SUCH AN ELECTION.

I have tried to put home made signs in the windows of stores but the proprietors are afraid of reprisals so there are no such signs. I need a VOICE OF AMERICA RADIO on the outside broadcasting into the 75th Assembly District so that the people can learn the issues.

I have no evidence to present you that Victor Veysey initiated this CURTAIN OF SILENCE against me. BUT HE KNOWS ABOUT IT!!! I protested this very unfair campaign practice by his allies in the leaflets NEWS BLACKOUT and VEYSEY & REAGAN ARE TWO LEECHES. An honorable man would have apologized and stopped the excesses of his supporters. HE HAS DONE NOTHING AND THAT IS WHY I PROTEST TO YOU.

THE FOUNDATION OF A STRONG DEMOCRACY IS A WELL INFORMED CITIZENRY! A Democracy is as President Abraham Lincoln said, "Of the People, by the People, and for the People." An Aristocracy is government by a small privileged class and the big mass of people do not need knowledge. The newspapers and radio are the common way the People get the information necessary to vote intelligently.

Yours truly, *Ben Yellen*  
Ben Yellen