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BIG FARMERS CREATE SERIOUS BIG CITY PROBLEMS

We have all read about the serious problems of the big cities like New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, etc. But very few people know that the big farm interests are responsible for most of these conditions in the large cities.

THE BIG FARM INTERESTS ARE SQUEEZING OUT THE SMALL FARMERS AND FARMWORKERS FROM THE RURAL AREAS. THEY ARE BEING AIDED IN DOING THIS BY THE U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS CONSPIRACY IS TO GIVE THE BIG FARMERS A MONOPOLY ON THE FARMING AND AT THE SAME TIME FORCE THE RURAL PEOPLE TO MOVE TO BIG CITIES TO EARN A LIVING. BUT THE BIG CITIES ARE IN GREAT FINANCIAL DISTRESS BECAUSE THE MOBS OF POOR PEOPLE FROM THE RURAL AREAS GO TO THE BIG CITIES AND GO ON WELFARE BECAUSE THEY CAN NOT FIND JOBS. THESE MIGRANTS TO THE BIG CITIES OF COURSE DO NOT PAY TAXES SINCE THEY ARE ON WELFARE SO THAT THE CITIES ARE ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY PROVIDING WELFARE, HOMES AND SCHOOLS AND THE MANY OTHER THINGS NEEDED BY LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE. THE BIG FARM INTERESTS SINCE THEY HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THESE PEOPLE, DO NOT HAVE TO PAY HIGH TAXES IN THE RURAL AREAS BECAUSE THEY HAVE GOTTEN RID OF MOST OF THE POOR.

Many think since the negroes form a big percentage of these migrants to the big cities, that this is purely a race problem. But it is not as one can see if he visited Chicago and saw neighborhoods composed of "poor whites" who were forced out of the rural areas of the Deep South. Or if you visit Los Angeles or San Francisco and find Mexican-Americans who have been forced out of the rural areas of the Southwest by the big farm interests in collusion with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Dept. of Interior, and the Immigration Service of the U.S. Dept. of Justice. Rural Counties have no food stamp, etc. to help farmworkers so that they do not have to leave for the big cities.

Seventy percent of the people of the United States live in the cities and can not have the personal experience of finding out what the big farm interests are doing. The writer is a physician who has lived for 27 years in Imperial County of California which ranks 6th amongst the counties of the United States in agricultural production. It has been possible for him to observe the methods of the big farming corporations to obtain a monopoly of the farming and to force out the little farmers and local farmworkers.

Now many of you city people will think that blaming the big farm interests is far fetched. But it should be pointed out to you that Kansas and North Dakota prohibit farm corporations from farming in their states. The Oklahoma legislature in 1969 passed a law forbidding farming by corporations but the Governor vetoed it. So you see that there are others who recognize the harmful effects of farming by corporations who in most instances are absentee and practice "colonialism".

Farming has changed a great deal in the past 25 years. Farmers do not do all the work themselves. They get contractors who have special machines like hay balers, wheat harvesters, corn pickers, beet diggers, barley harvesters, etc. to do most of the work. There are even plowing contractors who will do such a basic operation as plowing for the farmer. When it comes to picking fruit, etc., the farmer just hires a farm labor contractor who brings a crew of farmworkers to do the job and the farmer just pays the farm labor contractor.

The big farm interests put out a lot of propaganda that a little farmer does not have the machinery to farm. This is nonsense. He operates like a manufacturer who contracts out work on the product he is making. Even as regards land, farming is different. There is a farmer James House in Brawley, Calif. who farms 1,700 acres only 80 acres of which are owned by his wife. He pays \$81,000.00 yearly as rent for this land. Big farmers often hire contractors to do work.

Farming is also different in that the Federal Government gives handouts disguised by fancy names like "price supports", "land withdrawal", and "land conservation" for the growing or not growing about 60 different types of crops. For instance the H.B. Murphy Co. collected \$323,754.00 for NOT GROWING COTTON in Imperial County in 1968. The J.G. Boswell Co. of Kings County, Calif. in 1968 got a handout of \$3,010,042.00 for NOT GROWING COTTON.

The law to pay farmers not to grow certain crops by "withdrawal of land" is a good one. But the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has perverted it by regulations which permit growing of other crops on the land. The little farmers who can not get cotton allotments grow these other crops. But if the big corporation which is paid a lot of money to not grow cotton on a big acreage to avoid a surplus, is then permitted to grow some other crop on the withdrawn land, the result is a big surplus in the other crop and the little farmers who grow the other crop, go bankrupt because they have to sell the other crop below cost.

Prior to 1969, there were 33 million acres withdrawn from growing and 7 million acres of these were for cotton. Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin has made speeches advocating that 60 million acres be withdrawn from farming as a method to avoid surpluses. But this would be meaningless, for the Agriculture Dept. permits this withdrawn land to be planted into other crops. The big farmers not only get money for not growing the forbidden crop but make money on growing the other crop and in this way are monopolistic in competition and many small farmers have been squeezed out. These small farmers are forced to go to the cities to try to earn a living and cause the big city problems.

In the Deep South, many of these small farmers were sharecroppers who grew cotton. Many were "poor whites". They have been forced to leave. In Imperial County, Calif. 1,600 small farm families have had to leave in the last 20 years because they got no cotton allotments. The big farmers got them and then were paid for NOT GROWING COTTON. The big farmers then grew alfalfa which is used as hay and created such a surplus that the little farmers who grew alfalfa mainly, went broke. The writer has never seen any acreage lie unused for one year in Imperial County which was the intent of the law to pay for "withdrawal of land". The Southwest is a very big cotton producing area.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture stung by the big publicity about large payments for NOT GROWING COTTON, has ordered that all cotton acreage be planted in cotton in 1969. The only difference in 1969 is that the big farmers will collect the same big amounts but now it will be called "price supports" instead of "not growing cotton". The Dept. of Agriculture lobbied against a \$20,000.00 yearly limit in handouts to farmers. This would give the little farmers a chance so that they do not go broke and have to leave for the big cities since they will get some of the handouts. In the Southwest, the land is farmed by irrigation made possible under the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902 WHICH FORBIDS ABSENTEE FARMING BY BIG CORPORATIONS. The U.S. Dept. of Interior in collusion with the big farm interests HAS NOT ENFORCED THE LAW. In the last 2 years in Imperial County big corporations like Rex Co., United Fruit Co., Dow Chemical, Kaiser Aluminum and CER industries have come in to farm and collect the big handouts. Farmworkers in the Southwest have been starved out by refusing work to them and giving the work to Mexican commuting workers who live in Mexico.