

August 10, 1967

JIM DUKE IS THIS A REPORTER?

Jim Duke is the reporter (?) from SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS successor to Virgil Pinkley's Prostituted Press who has been attending the meetings of the Brawley City Council. So if you expect to find out what happened at Council meetings from his reporting, you might as well forget it.

The truth is that you taxpayers of the City of Brawley are being swindled. Jim Duke hides how it is being done. At the Council meeting on August 8, 1967, Dr. Yellen wanted the tax rate cut so that the people could get what amounts to a 40% reduction in taxes. Jim Duke was present at this meeting but did not report what actually happened.

When Dr. Yellen first became a Councilman about 3 years ago, the different jobs were divided up. Nick Pricola became the Commissioner of Police, Dr. Yellen became Director of Finance, and the rest had different jobs. Dr. Yellen soon found out that the business license tax was not being collected from the big farmers who ran their offices in town and also from their buddies who also had businesses in town.

After investigating how other businesses were charged on their gross receipts, it was estimated that about \$30,000 yearly could be collected from the big farm interests. If a man that operates a pool-room and cardroom is forced to pay about \$1,000 yearly, certainly big ranchers who make much more money could afford to pay a similar sum. The Elmeres who have 3 offices in town and receive about \$1 million in charity handouts from the Government could certainly pay \$1,000 yearly as a business license.

Dr. Yellen took this matter up repeatedly during Council meetings in the past 3 years but since he is one against 4 other Councilmen, nothing was done. When the big ranchers do not pay their business licenses, you the taxpayers have to pay more for city property taxes.

Now why did not SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS report what Dr. Yellen said? This Press is being paid off by advertising by the big farm interests or by organizations like the Imperial Irrigation District in advertising. It is also possible that certain persons in the Schurz organization are taking payoffs. Read the Wall St. Journal of July 25, 1967 and read how publishers, editors, and reporters of so-called respectable (?) newspapers took payoffs.

Now why have not the other Councilmen agreed with Dr. Yellen and started collection of the business license? In 3 years the city has lost \$90,000. Councilman Adams owns a grain mill and storage business. If he does anything the big ranchers do not like, they will boycott him and ruin him. Nick Pricola runs a tomato business and a packing shed. If he does anything the big ranchers do not like, he will be boycotted and ruined. Councilman Maya is a little farmer and farm labor contractor so he has to do what the big farmers want. Councilman Williams is a farming contractor and he can not do anything either.

So you see that each of these Councilmen have a "conflict of interest". If they do what is best for the city like forcing the collection of the business license from the big farm interests, they will be ruined. How about Dr. Yellen? He fought the big ranchers before he became a Councilman. He got elected despite their opposition. The big ranchers tried to ruin him. They told their workers not to go

to him, compensation cases of the big farmers can not go to Dr. Yellen, he got thrown out of the County Medical Society by doctors who are stooges of the big ranchers, they tried to get him thrown out of Pioneers Hospital but failed. They attempted to assassinate his character. At one time Dr. Yellen's practice was reduced to 60% of what it was. They are still trying in all sorts of ways to ruin him.

So you see the other 4 Councilmen have good reason to be afraid of the big farm interests because they are more vulnerable to injury than Dr. Yellen. But this does not help you taxpayers in getting lower taxes. You must follow the advice of Dr. Yellen and throw Adams, Williams, Pricola, and Maya out of office. They are no good to you because they have this conflict of interest- doing the right thing about taxes or being ruined.

But this is not the only thing. In 1961 before Dr. Yellen became a Councilman, he found out that the Imperial Irrig. Dist. had been charging the cities for water twice the rate they were charging the ranches. When the I.I.D. found out that Dr. Yellen was investigating this, it put out a statement with big lies and nonsense and stopped charging double. But between the years 1931 and 1961, the I.I.D. had swindled the City of Brawley out of \$300,000. Under the Anti-trust laws, the I.I.D. can be sued and the \$300,000 gotten back plus triple damages of \$900,000. This would be a total of \$1.2 millions. When the city got this back, it would not have to collect any taxes from the residents of the city for at least 5 years. But again the other 4 Councilman are afraid and do nothing despite Dr. Yellen bringing it up several times.

Dr. Yellen about 2 years ago refused to pay his business license because under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, everyone must get equal treatment under the law. He urged all the businessmen not to pay the business license. So the other 4 Councilmen became very brave and ordered the Chief of Police to sue Dr. Yellen for the amount of money of the business license. They still have been unable to collect it from Dr. Yellen. But they still can not get up enough courage to sue the big ranchers to pay their business license money.

Finally, the I.I.D. is doing business in this city and has a lot of property here. If this property was on the tax rolls, the City would be able to collect \$150,000 yearly from the District. Your taxes would drop 40%. Dr. Yellen has brought this matter up several times, but the 4 timid Councilmen sit on their hands and do nothing.

On August 7, 1967, Charlie Warren showed up at the Council with another of his grandiose schemes of a new city hall with all sorts of improvements. He had 2 fancy methods of financing all this. But unfortunately, Charlie knows how to spend the money but as to where to get the money, it always ends up soaking the average taxpayer. Charlie Warren in all the years he worked for the city, never found out that it was the big ranchers who had the money and did not pay their taxes or that the I.I.D. had been swindling the city for many years.

At this meeting, Dr. Yellen said, "Forget Charlie Warren and his financing schemes. They all end up soaking the average taxpayer. Let us collect the business license money from the big ranchers, let us sue the I.I.D. for \$1.2 millions and let us collect \$150,000 in taxes yearly on the District property". Jim Duke was at this Council meeting. He reported Charlie Warren's brainstorm and frenzied finance to pay for it. BUT JIM DUKE NEVER REPORTED ONE WORD THAT DR. YELLEN SAID. Is this a reporter???

The next night, August 8, 1967, the Council met to work on the budget and to set the tax rate. Maya was absent. Duke was there. The 3 so timid souls wanted the same tax rate. Dr. Yellen again told the 3 ways to reduce the tax rate. So the 3 timid souls voted the same tax rate and Dr. Yellen voted "No", he wanted a lower tax rate. In baseball if the pitcher is no good, the crowd howls, "Throw the bum out". So in the vernacular, "Throw the 4 bums out and Jim Duke along with them". Duke in the Brawley News of Aug. 9th tries to tell you that Lawyer Schmitt says the I.I.D. can't be taxed. Schmitt never studied this law.