

Oct. 20, 1973

VOTE DR. BEN YELLEN FOR DIRECTOR OF I.I.D.

On Tuesday, November 6, 1973 is election day for Director of the Imperial Irrigation District.

ALL VOTERS WHO FAVOR WHAT I AM DOING, MUST BE SURE AND GO TO VOTE FOR ME. THE BIG FARM INTERESTS AND THEIR STOOGES ARE GOING TO VOTE TO DEFEAT ME. THEY HAVE A HIGHLY ORGANIZED SYSTEM OF TELEPHONING THEIR ALLIES ON ELECTION DAY TO REMIND THEM TO VOTE. THEREFORE, IT IS UP TO YOU READERS TO REMIND OTHER VOTERS TO GO AND VOTE SO THAT I WILL BE ELECTED.

Now on this election day there will not be many candidates for different offices. So many voters will not think it is important to vote on this day. But there is PROPOSITION #1 which is very important. The big farm interests all want this Proposition to be passed. SO VOTE "NO" ON THIS PROPOSITION AND DEFEAT THE BIG FARMERS JUST AS A VOTE FOR ME WILL ALSO DEFEAT THE BIG RANCHERS.

Now here is what I am doing and what I intend to do in the near future. DO NOT LET THE BIG FARM INTERESTS FOOL YOU THAT A LITTLE FARMER CAN NOT MAKE A LIVING FARMING.

At Aptos, Calif., 30 Mexican-American farmworker families, many of whom could not speak English, were given a loan to farm 130 acres (average of 4 acres to a family). Each family made \$10,000 profit in 1972 whereas as farmworkers in 1971 and previous years, these families averaged only about \$2,500 per year. Now when these families were seeking the loan of \$150,000 to lease land and have money for the farming, the big farmers put the pressure on all the banks like Bank of America, Security Pacific National Bank, etc. not to give the loan to the farmworkers BECAUSE THE BIG FARM INTERESTS DID NOT WANT THESE FARMWORKERS TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND THEREBY PROVE THAT THE BIG FARMER PROPAGANDA IS A LIE.

This loan of \$150,000 was finally reluctantly given by the Wells Fargo Bank even though it was afraid that the big farmers would boycott it for making the loan. Anyway, this loan of \$150,000 was paid back with interest that year AND EACH FARM FAMILY MADE \$10,000 THAT YEAR. So it will be in Imperial Valley, when we beat the big farmers in the lawsuits U.S. v. Imperial Irrigation District and Ben Yellen, et al. v. Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Interior.

These 2 lawsuits which should be in the U.S. Supreme Court in about 1½ years, will drive out absentee farm corporations like PUREX CO., UNITED FRUIT CO., SOUTHERN PACIFIC LAND CO., TENNECO, INC., KAISER CHEMICAL & ALUMINUM CO., IRVINE CO., BRUCE CHURCH CO., ARENA IMPERIAL CO., D'ARRIGO BROS., SALINAS LETTUCE FARMERS CO OP, ADMIRAL PACKING CO, and the many other farming outfits whose owners do not live here.

Furthermore, these lawsuits will make it possible for one person to farm 160 acres by getting enough water to do this farming. So a family of a husband and wife with 3 children will legally be able to farm 5 x 160 acres for a total of 800 acres. Since there will be no big farmers here, the banks in order to stay in business will be forced to give LOANS TO LITTLE FARMERS FOR ONLY LITTLE FARMERS WILL BE HERE.

Now Aptos, Calif. is near Salinas, and those 30 Mexican-American families grew beans and strawberries. This requires a lot of hand and stoop work. Many of you do not know that before World War 2, strawberries were grown in great quantities here and got very good prices because the

Imperial Valley strawberries went to the markets long before the strawberries from the Salinas and other Northern areas.

Now I am not suggesting that everyone grow strawberries. But I am confident quite a few will. After all, show me how many jobs there are in Imperial Valley that pay \$10,000 yearly? Even a school teacher if she can get a job here, just starts out on about \$6,500 per year. There are many people here who do not have college educations and even those with college educations, would like to start making \$10,000 per year.

There is a U.S. Government agency, THE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION WHICH WILL GIVE YOU MONEY ON A 40 YEAR MORTGAGE AT 5% INTEREST TO BUY THE FARMLAND AND THIS LOAN CAN INCLUDE MONEY TO BUILD A HOUSE AND BUY A TRACTOR. The only thing necessary for you to have is a practical knowledge of farming. But none of these loans will be given you as long as the absentee farm corporations which own 70% of the farmland, are here. They must be driven out and it is their farmland which you will be able to farm when the U.S. Supreme Court gives the decision to us residents.

SO I REPEAT AGAIN--DO NOT LET THE BIG FARM INTERESTS FOOL YOU INTO BELIEVING THAT YOU CAN NOT MAKE A VIABLE FARMING HERE. THIS IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU VOTE FOR ME. IT MEANS YOU ARE NOT FOOLED AND YOU WANT THE FARMING DONE BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE!!!

There are \$50 millions in yearly profits in agriculture here. If only local residents can do the farming, all this money will go to them. They will spend it mainly with local businesses which will have a big boom. Those of you who are not interested in becoming farmers, could go into these local businesses which are booming. You could set up your own business. Young men will not have to leave for other parts to make a living as is the situation now. The young ladies will not have to leave as there will be plenty of young men here who can make a living, for them to marry.

I have organized THE SOCIETY FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF RURAL POVERTY, INC. to collect money to pay the lawyers who will take our lawsuits to the U.S. SUPREME COURT. Send your checks payable to this SOCIETY to me. The contribution you make is tax deductible from your Federal & State income taxes. Please tell your friends to give for we need money.

I intend to kick out the lawyers HORTON, KNOX, CARTER & FOOTE who have a monopoly on the legal business of the I.I.D. This law firm argued at the hearing of July 13, 1973 before the U.S. Court of Appeals that we the little people who are residents and do not own land here, have no legal right to be involved in these lawsuits. THE COURT OF APPEALS SAID THAT WE HAVE THIS RIGHT. This law firm has collected \$200,000 of the I.I.D.'s money (which is your money) to fight us in these lawsuits to enforce the U.S. Reclamation Law. Our money is being used for the benefit of the absentee farm corporations who prevent the residents from farming here.

This law firm in the early 1930's tried to prevent residents who own no land from voting in the I.I.D. elections. At present, residents who do not own land can not run for election as Director which is an easy job which pays \$6,000 yearly. This law firm has taken no steps to make landless people have the right to run for Director. It has also favored the recent "voting at large" election which with the fact that landless people can not run for election, MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE BIG FARM INTERESTS TO KEEP THEIR STOOGES IN OFFICE ALL THE TIME!!!

Customers of electricity who paid \$15½ millions in 1972 are being swindled for the benefit of the absentee farmowners who paid \$5½ millions for water in 1972. There are many more electricity users than big water users and yet Ray Bisel and many others who want to run for Director are unable to do so for they are not landowners. The big farm interests have their stooges on the Board of Directors of the I.I.D. and you are being made to pay 3 times the correct price for electricity so that the big farmers can get irrigation water for ¼ the correct price!!!

The accounting firm of HUTCHINSON & BLOODGOOD has to be kicked out. Their annual reports for many years are inaccurate for the reports do not show how money earned by the electric power division has been transferred to pay the debts and expenses of the water division for the benefit of the big farmers. Many bookkeeping tricks are used to fool you! ELECT ME DIRECTOR SO I CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE BATTLES AHEAD!!!