

March 17, 1966

IMPERIAL COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOC. IS A BIG FAKE

The big ranches never give up trying to control the minds of the residents of Imperial County so that the great mass of people should not learn how they are being swindled out of \$8 millions yearly in County property taxes. John Bowman, the Assessor-Collector of Imperial County does this swindling for the big ranches by putting fake low assessments on the farmland.

But these ranchers know by now that if they make public statements to the newspapers that Dr. Yellen will put out a Newsletter telling how much in property taxes the rancher escapes and also how much in charity handouts he receives from the Federal Government for growing crops like cotton, beets, etc.

So the trick is to remain in the background and have stooges make public statements to the newspapers. The stooges invent associations to give themselves an organization from which to issue press releases to radio, television, and the papers. The Imperial County Taxpayers Association has been giving out press releases to brainwash you citizens of Imperial County so that you will not realize that the ONLY REASON FOR THE EXCESSIVE HIGH TAXES IS THAT THE LARGE FARMS ESCAPE \$8 MILLIONS IN COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES AND THAT YOU CITIZENS HAVE TO PAY THAT MUCH EXTRA TO MAKE UP FOR THE BIG RANCHES.

The Imperial County Taxpayers Association has been able to fool many persons into joining it. These persons are honestly worried about the high taxes but do not really know the reason for them. The Imperial County Taxpayers Assoc. is affiliated with the California Taxpayers Assoc. which is the big ranches publicity organization to keep the people all over the State of California fooled as to how the large corporation farms escape most of their taxes.

Taxpayers are strongly urged to write to the Statewide Homeowners Association, 953-8th Ave. San Diego 1, Calif. (there are also offices in Los Angeles, and San Francisco) for a reprint of the press release it issued in the Spring of 1964. This reprint was based on a study made by Basic Economic Education, Inc. and showed that the farmland in Imperial County WAS ESCAPING \$8 MILLIONS YEARLY IN PROPERTY TAXES. Statewide Homeowners represent the homeowners and small businessmen AND NOT THE BIG RANCHES. This is the organization to join.

When Dr. Yellen first discovered about 6 years ago that the cause of the excessive high taxes in Imperial County was the \$8 millions evaded yearly by the large ranches, he innocently wrote to the Los Angeles office of the California Taxpayers Association asking for help. The Doctor wanted to establish a branch of the Calif. Taxpayers Assoc. here so that the people find out what was happening. The Doctor in 1961 was just as naive as the honest citizens who are now joining the Imperial County Taxpayers Assoc. under the mistaken idea that they will be able to lower taxes. It will never be done because the

Imperial County Taxpayers Assoc. WILL NEVER INVESTIGATE THE FAKE LOW ASSESSMENTS ON THE FARMLAND. This Association WILL ONLY HOWL that the County employees are getting too much pay, that the school teachers are getting too much pay, that the poor on welfare are getting too much money, etc. etc. It will never tell how the big farmers escape \$8 millions yearly in taxes and that the big ranchers actually receive in charity handouts from the government 8 TIMES what the poor on welfare receive.

The Elmores receive for the six months they grow cotton a charity handout of \$¼ million. This is the amount of money needed to support 1,000 needy children on welfare for 6 months. This is approximately the number of children on the Welfare rolls of Imperial County. Yet the Elmores receive while being millionaires. The Elmores escape about \$30,000 yearly on taxes on their farmland.

When Dr. Yellen wrote to the Calif. Taxpayers Assoc. for help about 6 years ago, he got this reply, "This Association does not concern itself with assessment matters. It is interested only in the expenditures". Well, this was very peculiar so the Doctor investigated the Calif. Taxpayers Assoc. He found that the Board of Directors consisted of big ranchers, officials of big ranch corporations, and their allies, officials of banks, railroads, public utilities, etc. THERE WERE NO SMALL BUSINESSMEN OR HOMEOWNERS OF THE PRICE RANGE OF \$10,000 TO \$20,000 HOMES, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

For example at present, here are some examples:

Ranchers	Allies
C.H. Breusing, Kern Co. Land Co.	K.V. Larkin, Bank of America
R.A. Colgan, Jr., Shasta Forest Co.	R.T. Smith, Spreckels Sug. Co.
R.A. Hardison, Rancher	H. Harries, Atch. Top, S.F.R.R.
H.S. Russell, Rancho Cuyama	R. Marks, S.P. Railroad
Porter Sesnon, Porter Estate Co.	J. Walker, Kaiser Steel Co.

The Kern County Land Co. owns more land in California than is in cultivation in Imperial County (460,000 acres). All these big outfits escape tremendous taxes on the land they own. The Attorney General of the State of Calif. testified before a State Assembly Committee (see Los Angeles Times Nov. 19, 1965) that the 88,000 Irvine ranch in Orange County should pay \$10½ millions in yearly taxes but only pays \$1½ million thereby escaping 85% of its taxes by fake low assessments. The homeowners of Orange County have to each pay \$29 per year more in taxes to make up for the Irvine Ranch. In Imperial County, the Irvine Co. escapes \$150,000 yearly in property taxes and \$400,000 in yearly water charges from the Imperial Irrigation District for a total of \$550,000. Each homeowner in Imperial County has to pay \$50 more per year in taxes and higher electricity bills to make up for the Irvine Co.

The Imperial County Taxpayers Assoc. has distributed a paper in which it states its policy. Under item 9, it says the same thing as Calif. Taxpayers Assoc. about "will not concern itself with general assessment matters". THE SWINDLE IS IN THE ASSESSMENTS. YET HERE IT IS IN BLACK AND WHITE THAT IT WILL NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.

Notice that the Imperial County Taxpayers Assoc. claims to be non-partisan. This is a lot of hokum. 95% of the big ranchers are REPUBLICANS. Cliff Hurley who puts out most of the press releases is a member of the Republican County Central Committee. He is a real estate broker who if he keeps on the good side of the big ranches, will get business from them buying and selling ranches. Another stooge is Clair Mitchell who claims to be a Democrat. He was the foreman of the 1964 Grand Jury WHICH REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE JOHN BOWMAN AND HIS FAKE FARMLAND ASSESSMENTS. Mitchell also deals in ranch real estate.

Keith Sharp, Neil Fifield, Ralph Gilbert, Charles Westmoreland, etc. etc. are some of the big farmers on the Board of Directors locally. The biggest farmers are too smart to go on this Board. So join the Statewide Homeowners Assoc. which is really for the little people. DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE IMPERIAL COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION.