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IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Raul Loya, candidate for Assemblyman of the 75th District in California on the Democratic ticket in the June 2, 1970 primary election announced that he has applied for WELFARE. He said, "the opposition has caused me to be fired from my job and it is peculiar that I am unable to obtain another job in the 75th Assembly District. I am being starved out so that I will be compelled to leave the 75th District in order to get a job to support my family. If I leave the 75th, I will of course be ineligible to run for Assemblyman. I appeal to employers who are able to withstand the economic pressures of the big farm interests to give me a job and pending the getting of the job, I WILL BE ON WELFARE SO THAT MY FAMILY WILL NOT STARVE."

Raul Loya, is the only candidate who has accused big absentee corporations like TENNECO, INC., UNITED FRUIT CO., PUREX CORP., THE IRVINE CO., THE DOW CHEMICAL CO., THE KAISER ALUMINUM & CHEMICAL CORP., CBK, INC., THE S.P. LAND CO., BRUCE CHURCH CO., ARENA CO., AND MANY OTHERS of farming in the 75th Assembly District in violation of the U.S. Reclamation Laws. He has charged that residents because of the competition of these big corporations, many of which are listed on the stock exchanges, are unable to farm as was intended by the Reclamation Laws.

In his campaign speeches, Loya has said that the absentee corporations take more than \$50 millions profits yearly out of the District so that there is poor business for the merchants and businessmen in contrast to the situation if residents did the farming and made the profits. Riverside and Imperial Counties in which the 75th District is located have an annual agricultural production of \$500 millions and rank 5th and 6th respectively in farm production in the United States.

Loya has accused the big farm interests of profiting from several rackets imposed on the residents living in the towns by 4 large irrigation districts controlled by local big ranchers in collusion with the absentee corporations. He has charged the Imperial Irrigation District with cheating 110,000 people of the 200,000 in the 75th District out of \$14 millions yearly in electricity bills by forcing them to pay 3 times the correct price for electricity so that the big farm interests can get irrigation water for 1/4 the correct price.

He has accused the Coachella Valley County Water District, the Palo Verde Irrigation District and the Bard Irrigation District of collecting taxes on the land of townspeople so that they would subsidize the water to the big ranchers at cheap prices. This he alleges comes about because the farms use 99½% of the water while the people use less than ½ of 1% of the water and there is no logical reason for taxing the townspeople.

Loya charges that one of the cruelest rackets is the fact that the irrigation districts which are public utilities with assets and property much greater than investor owned utilities have in the 75th District, are not on the tax rolls and pay no taxes. The Southern Calif. Edison Co., General Telephone Co., Pacific Telephone Co., Southern Calif. Gas Co., and Southern Calif. Water Co., all investor owned utilities are paying taxes just like the City of Los Angeles is paying 3 millions annually in taxes for its properties in Inyo and Mono Counties.

The Imperial Irrigation District with its irrigation division and electricity division should be paying \$4½ millions yearly in taxes to Imperial and Riverside Counties, to the towns, and to the school districts, etc. Mr. Loya has said, "The cruel thing about this tax swindle is that Senior Citizens are losing their homes because on the fixed incomes they have, they can not pay the increasing property taxes on their homes since the 4 big irrigation districts do not pay their just share of the property taxes. Senior Citizens (also non-Senior Citizens and merchants and businessmen) have to pay more taxes to make up for the 4 irrigation districts. IT CAN BE READILY UNDERSTOOD THAT SINCE THE FARM INTERESTS USE 99½% OF THE WATER OF THE IRRIGATION DISTRICTS THAT THE TOWNSPEOPLE RECEIVE NO SPECIAL BENEFITS FROM THEM PARTICULARLY SO SINCE THE RESIDENTS ARE PREVENTED FROM FARMING BY THE COMPETITION OF THE ABSENTEE CORPORATIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAWS."

Raul Loya charges that it is not only a matter of the opposition trying to starve him and his family out of the 75th Assembly District. He points out that the 75th with 200,000 people has an area 25% bigger than the State of New Jersey. Since Loya has no money for radio, television, or newspaper advertising, he must walk the streets of the various towns distributing home made mimeographed leaflets contributed to his campaign by Dr. Ben Yellen of Brawley, Calif., a pioneer in the fight to curb the exploitation of the people of the Assembly District by the big farm interests.

"Without the help of Dr. Yellen, I would have no campaign at all. In a State like New York which has a population like California, an Assembly District has 100,000 people. A candidate in Brooklyn would just have to walk one mile in all directions and he would be in contact with 100,000 people. The diagonal distance from Sunnymeade to Winterhaven is 200 miles and you can realize the difficulty of contacting the people over these tremendous distances by means of leaflets", said Loya.

Mr. Loya continued, " Alfred Singh, an opponent, is the son of a big farmer and is an employee of Imperial County which receives much Federal money. Singh is in violation of the Hatch Act but he is not fired. I worked for a private non-profit corporation which receives Federal money. I was exempt from the Hatch Act because I was a teacher. I was fired because the big farm interests did not like my speeches".