

NEWSLETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN  
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# BRAWLEY MIGRANT FARMWORKER MEDICAL CLINIC IS A RACKET

The local newspapers are constantly printing news reports about the Brawley Migrant Farmworkers Medical Clinic which is called by the fancy name of CLINICA SALUBRIDAD DE CAMPESINOS AND IS LOCATED AT 1166 K ST., BRAWLEY, CALIF. The way these newspaper reports come to be printed is that the clinic itself gives press releases to the newspapers. In these press releases, the clinic praises itself and uses what is called "name dropping" so that people should believe that it is doing wonderful work. "Name dropping" is the mentioning of people who are Professors or officials of various government agencies who come to visit the clinic. This is done to make the readers believe that all these dignitaries approve the clinic WHEREAS THE TRUTH IS THAT ALL THESE DIGNITARIES ARE ABSOLUTELY IGNORANT OF WHAT IS GOING ON. To make matters worse all these officials have their trips to the clinic paid for out of taxes and an audit of the clinic's expenditures is needed to see if the clinic pays for these visits.

Now this Brawley Migrant Farmworker Medical Clinic is paid out of the income taxes that all people living in the United States pay. So it is necessary to print what is really going on there. Now as we all know, the domestic migrant farmworker earns the least money of all the workers in the United States. It is morally right to provide him with free medical services and that was the intent of Congress. So it is absolutely necessary to point out how the money intended for the use of domestic migrant farmworkers is being illegally diverted from their benefit.

Ventura Huerta, the manager of the Brawley Migrant Farmworker Medical Clinic is quoted in the Brawley News (Calif.) of August 31, 1971, that since January 1, 1971, the clinic has had 9,000 patient visits. Since this was a period of 240 days, it means that the clinic averages 37 patient visits per day. Since there are 3 doctors at the clinic, it means that each doctor averages 12 visits per day.

But any doctor in Imperial County where the clinic is located, averages at least 30 patients per day. So the average doctor in Imperial County with the help of one or 2 assistants in the same period of time, sees 7,200 patient visits as compared to the clinic's 9,000.

But the real big difference is that the clinic has 39 ASSISTANTS WHO ARE HELPING THE 3 CLINIC DOCTORS AND THE CLINIC HAD ONLY 9,000 PATIENT VISITS AS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE IMPERIAL COUNTY DOCTOR WHO WITH THE HELP OF 1 OR 2 ASSISTANTS HAD 7,200 PATIENT VISITS.

So you can readily see that this clinic should only have 1 doctor and at the most 2 assistants for the doctor to properly function. The GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE which is the auditing branch of Congress to see that tax money is spent properly, has investigated medical clinics of various sorts which the Federal Government has provided the money for just as the Brawley Clinic gets its money from the Federal Government.



In a report about a poor persons clinic (St. Lukes in New York, dated June 15, 1971 (E1305151), the GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE says on page 23, that physicians at this clinic saw an average of 9.5 patients per day. It criticizes this clinic by writing, "STAFF-PATIENT RATIO APPEARED UNREALISTIC; STAFF TOP-HEAVY". On page 2 of this report is written, "CEO guidelines suggest that about 28 patients a day should be treated by one physician".

So according to this G.A.O. report, the 3 Brawley Clinic doctors should be treating 34 patients a day. But this really means that the doctors should be treating them with about 6 assistants. The Brawley Clinic doctors have 39 assistants and therefore should treat at least 250 patients a day.

Do not let the Brawley Clinic fool you with its propaganda in the newspapers with the story it needs assistants to bring patients to the clinic in autos. The Brawley News of Oct. 23, 1971, has a letter in PROBE where the people living close to the clinic complain about many autos of the clinic's patients being parked in front of their homes.

The clinic if it sees 9,000 patients in 8 months, will have 12,000 patient visits in 12 months (one year). The Federal Government gave the clinic \$560,000 recently to operate for one year. When you divide 12,000 patient visits into \$560,000, you find out that each visit costs us taxpayers \$46.00. But many of the clinic's patients bring in Medi-Cal cards and the clinic collects from the government about another \$6.00 so that adding this to the \$46.00, it costs us tax payers \$52.00 per visit for each clinic patient carrying a medi-cal card!!!

But there are more surprises for you taxpayers. The City of Los Angeles has a law which says that a charitable organization can not collect money in the city unless approved by the Social Service Dept. This is to prevent charity rackets where the ones running the so-called charity use most of the money for themselves in the form of salaries, autos, trips, hotel expenses, etc. etc.

There are about 50 physicians (counting the County Hospital doctors) in Imperial County. If these patients going to the clinic would be authorized to go to these doctors, the cost would be 12,000 visits at \$6.00 each for a total of only \$72,000. So you can see that the clinic's patients only get 13% of the Federal money whereas the overhead expenses are 87% with the salaries (and trips with hotel expenses) amount to about 80%.

IN PLAIN ENGLISH THE PATIENTS GET PRACTICALLY NOTHING WHILE THE 3 DOCTORS AND THE 39 ASSISTANTS ARE HAVING A PICNIC USING THE MONEY.

Those of you who have lived here for 25 years know that practically speaking, THERE ARE NO DOMESTIC MIGRANT FARMWORKERS HERE. You recent residents should go down to Calexico at 4 a.m. and see the mobs of Mexicans crossing into the United States to do the farmwork. THEY DO 95% of the farmwork here because they are willing to work for very cheap wages. Our own domestic migrant farmworkers can not come here to work for they can not make a living on such low wages.

So who are the patients at the Brawley Clinic??? In many instances, a farmer (often absentee) who does not live on his ranch sponsors a Mexican with a wife and 6 children to immigrate to the U.S. and live in a shack on the ranch and work and watch that nothing is stolen from the ranch. The wages are about \$45.00 per week.

But the Immigration Laws say that the sponsor must support an immigrant so that he does not have to go to an agency supported by public taxes as the Brawley Clinic is. The clinic treats these in violation of the Immigration Laws. The Brawley News of Oct. 15, 1971 and the San Diego Union of Oct. 16th, both report how residents of Mexicali, Mexico voted for Director of The Brawley Clinic. THE CLINIC TREATS MANY MEXICANS WHO LIVE IN MEXICALI SO CONGRESS AND YOU TAXPAYERS ARE FOOLED WHEN YOU THINK OUR TAXES ARE HELPING DOMESTIC MIGRANT FARMWORKERS GET MEDICAL SERVICE FOR FREE.

So the domestic migrant farmworkers can not come here to get work and on top of that the Brawley Clinic helps the Mexicans of Mexicali who take the work away from our farmworkers. BELIEVE IT OR NOT!!!