

February 25, 1962

HOW MERCHANTS GO BROKE

The Brawley News and the El Centro Post Press never print the fact that a store closed up or went broke. When the S. H. Kress store closed January 1, 1961, they did not print the news in El Centro. When the Woolworth store closed January 1, 1962, again the El Centro Post Press did not print the news. Here in Brawley, the A.C. Eaves Co. closed in the last 2 weeks and is being auctioned off but the Brawley News did not print the news.

THIS IS ALL A PART OF THE CURTAIN OF SILENCE BEING CONDUCTED BY THE TWO PINKLEY NEWSPAPERS SO THAT YOU WOULD NOT BEGIN TO THINK AS TO WHY THESE STORES HAVE CLOSED.

In the last 10 years, 14 chain stores have closed. In the same time, about 250 independent stores have closed. But the Pinkley newspapers are the allies of the big farmers who are causing the merchants to go broke. SO WE HAVE THE CURTAIN OF SILENCE!!!!!!

For the benefit of newcomers to Imperial Valley, I will describe the time when the Valley was prosperous so that the newcomers can understand why the merchants are going broke.

Fifteen to 20 years ago, there were about 3,000 farmers. By Federal Reclamation Law, only little farmers are supposed to be here. But big farmers and big corporations have a lot of influence in Washington, and are able to prevent the 160 acres limit law from being enforced. So in the last 15 years, 1,700 little farmers have gone broke from the competition with the big corporation farmers.

THE MERCHANTS LOST ALL THESE LITTLE FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

In the old days, there were labor contractors who would bring crews of domestic farmworkers to work to different farms. These domestic farmworkers lived in the towns of the Valley for the 9 months from October to June. These domestic farmworkers had their permanent homes in the Valley. For the months of the summer, they left to work up North in California where there was much farmwork. During the summer here, things were slack.

But the big farmers did not want to pay decent wages, so they started a campaign of propaganda saying that there were not enough domestic farmworkers and they needed to import Mexican farmworkers from Mexico. The California Farm Placement Service was in cahoots with the big farmers and certified that there were not sufficient workers. THEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PERMITTED BIG MOBS OF MEXICANS TO BE IMPORTED.

These imported Mexicans come here without their FAMILIES AND THEREFORE THEY DO NOT BUY ANYTHING MUCH FROM THE MERCHANTS.

THIS IS THE REASON THAT THE MERCHANTS ARE GOING BROKE.

The big farmers run labor camps where they feed these imported Mexicans. They make a profit of \$1.00 per day on each Mexican. So if they have 500 Mexicans in a camp, the camp operator makes \$500 profit for the day. THIS IS ONE OF THE BIG REASONS WHY THE BIG GROWERS WANT TO KEEP ON IMPORTING THE MEXICANS. THE OTHER REASON IS THAT BY

HAVING MOBS OF IMPORTED MEXICANS HERE WHO WILL WORK FOR PRACTICALLY NOTHING, THE BIG FARMERS CAN CLAIM LOWER WAGE SCALES.

One of the big secrets that the El Centro Post Press and Brawley News do not print is the story of Ed Hayes, the manager of the Imperial Valley Farmers Association. He was the Chief of the California Farm Placement Service for many years. An investigation was started by Governor Brown in 1959 as to why so many imported Mexicans were being imported. These foreign farmhands were doing 93% of the farmwork here.

IT WAS FOUND THAT MANY EMPLOYEES OF THE CALIFORNIA FARM PLACEMENT SERVICE WERE TAKING GIFTS FROM THE BIG FARMERS.

Ed Hayes gave press statements that he did not know anything about the employees of his department taking gifts. A lot of persons lost their jobs. Ed Hayes because he did not know that his employees were taking gifts was fired from his job as Chief by Governor Brown.

Ed Hayes must be liked by the Imperial Valley Farmers Association for it gave the job of manager to Ed Hayes. So the next time Ed Hayes issues a press release, remember that he was fired by Governor Brown for not knowing that the men under him were taking gifts from the big farmers. Since Ed Hayes was ignorant before, he can be ignorant again.

On Monday, February 19, 1962, the U.S. Dept. of Labor held a hearing on "the adverse effects of the imported Mexican braceros on the wages and working conditions of American farmworkers". Gilbert Valle, a labor contractor testified that the big farmers will refuse work to him and his crews of domestic farmworkers. He even pointed out several big farmers of Imperial Valley as the ones who refused work.

But the El Centro Post Press and the Brawley News did not print the names of the big farmers whom Gilbert Valle accused of refusing work to domestic farmworkers.

BUT GILBERT VALLE IS TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN HE SAYS DOMESTIC FARMWORKERS ARE REFUSED WORK. On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1962, 4 domestic farmworkers came into my office and made a signed statement to me that they and 136 more domestic farmworkers were refused work while they were at the field which was being worked by imported Mexicans.

If these 140 domestic workers had been employed at \$1.00 per hour for 8 hours, they would have made \$1,120. These wages they would have spent with the merchants in the Valley. Instead, this money is going to be sent by the imported Mexicans to their families in Mexico.

THIS IS THE WAY THE VALLEY MERCHANTS ARE GOING BROKE!!!!!!

As you can realize, if people do not get work, they begin to starve. At the Welfare Dept. at 1007 Hamilton, El Centro when these starving farmworkers ask for direct relief, they are turned down with the statement, "You are in good physical condition, you can work".

Now you must learn about the Federal Food Surplus. The Federal Govt. takes your taxes and gives it to the farmers by buying up the surplus beans, milk, butter, cheese, etc.etc. The Federal Govt. now has about \$4 billions of this food stored away. The Govt. pays \$1 million daily in storage charges to keep this food. A lot of it spoils. A lot of it is taken by the schools and given as lunches in public schools. LARGE AMOUNTS ARE SENT TO STARVING PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

THE FARMWORKERS WHO LIVE HERE AND ALSO THE TRANSIENT FARMWORKERS WHO ARE REFUSED WORK BY THE BIG FARMERS NEED THIS SURPLUS FOOD.

BUT THE BIG FARMERS KNOW THAT IF THE DOMESTIC FARMWORKERS GET THIS FOOD, THEY WILL STAY IN THE VALLEY. SO THE BIG FARMERS PREVENT THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE CITY COUNCILS FROM GETTING THE FOOD TO GIVE TO THESE STARVING PEOPLE. STARVING FOREIGNERS ALL OVER THE WORLD CAN GET THIS SURPLUS FOOD BUT STARVING FARMWORKERS CAN NOT GET IT HERE!!!!!!

So the starving people will be forced to leave Imperial Valley and the BIG FARMERS CAN SAY "THERE ARE NO DOMESTIC FARMWORKERS HERE".

Please distribute to your neighbors so that this information will penetrate the CURTAIN OF SILENCE erected by the Pinkley newspapers!!!!!!