

NEWS LETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN

Brawley, Calif.

Oct. 6, 1960

When I was in Washington, D.C. last August, I was looking for advice and help on the problems of Imperial Valley from Democrat and Republican politicians.

I told them about these problems:

- 1) Imported Mexican farmworkers displacing American farmworkers.
- 2) Exploitation of the imported Mexican farmworkers
- 3) American farmworkers and their families leaving the Valley.
- 4) Juvenile delinquency amongst American youth who can not get farm work like tractor driving or truck driving and so turn to crime.
- 5) Merchants and Small Businessmen having to close because of bad business because the American farmworkers and their families leave.
- 6) Little farmers being squeezed out by big corporation farmers.
- 7) Violations in wholesale fashion of the U.S. Reclamation Laws whereby a single person can get water for 160 acres and a husband and wife can get water for 320 acres.
- 8) Absentee landowners have 70% of the farmland.
- 9) The absentee landowners and local rich farmers who own or control 90% of the farmland escape big property taxes by having low valuations put on their farmland.
- 10) The burden of paying for the All American Canal worth \$25,000,000 has been shifted by 300 persons and corporations who are the only ones benefiting from the Canal, to the backs of 70,000 people who own no farmland by making the people pay big electrical bills.
- 11) That the elderly citizens who are on pensions, have to pay big electricity bills and big property taxes because the absentee landowners do not pay their correct taxes.
- 12) That employees working for the County of Imperial, the Imperial Irrigation District and the Cities of Imperial County are always told that they can not get a raise in salaries because there are no funds. There are no funds because the absentee landowners escape paying taxes on \$142,000,000 worth of farmland.

I FOUND THAT THE REPUBLICANS WOULD NOT GIVE ANY HELP.

I FOUND THAT THE DEMOCRATS WANT TO GIVE HELP TO THE CITIZENS HERE.

THEREFORE I AM CHANGING FROM A REPUBLICAN TO A DEMOCRAT.

I ADVISE ALL VOTERS TO VOTE A STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC TICKET AT THE NOV. 8th ELECTION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SAUND RUNNING FOR CONGRESS.

DO NOT VOTE FOR SAUND RUNNING FOR CONGRESS AND ALSO DO NOT VOTE FOR THE REPUBLICAN JAMESON RUNNING FOR CONGRESS.

Both Saund and Jameson are in favor of bringing in Mexican braceros who are displacing American farmworkers and ruining the business of local merchants and businessmen. Saund has voted 2 times in Congress to bring the Mexican braceros in.

The politicians in Washington are very interested in the matter of whether the Mexican farmworkers should be brought in. The big farmers always go to Washington and ask for the braceros. The merchants and businessmen and American farmworkers have never had the opportunity to tell Washington politicians their opinion. Here is our chance. When the election is over, the total of the votes of Kennedy and Nixon will be much greater than the total of Saund and Jameson. This will show your opinion.