

May 1, 1967

IS WES BISGAARD A MILLIONAIRE MOOCHER AND A BIG LIAR?

In previous years when big ranchers made speeches about "rugged individualism" and "free enterprise", the writer of this Newsletter would just investigate the big rancher and show how much he escaped in taxes on the land he farmed, how much he escaped in irrigation water charges, how much he collected in "cotton handouts" from the government, and the same for the beet handouts.

So now you never hear this speech about "rugged individualism" or "free enterprise" for it was shown that any big rancher was a MILLIONAIRE MOOCHER who collected more in charity handouts than any poor person who was on welfare. So the real big ranchers make

Let us face these facts. A big rancher who grows a large crop of cotton or beets, etc. or feeds a large number of cattle or sheep is no different than a woman who grows a crop of 10 children. If this woman is unfortunate enough to have to go on welfare, she collects at the most \$4,500 yearly to feed, clothe, and house the 10 children. Almost anyone will agree that it means a much greater effort for this mother to give birth and take care of these children than let us say it takes the Elmeres to grow cotton for which they receive \$250,000 yearly in charity handouts. The Elmeres have big mansions for homes, racehorses, a private race track at San Clemente, Calif. and Cadillacs and airplanes.

So the big ranchers put in Wes Bisgaard of the Holtville area to be President of the Imperial County Farm Bureau. Each Sunday about 5:30 p.m., there is a television show put on by the Farm Bureau over Station KIVA. The show is called AGRICULTURE UNLIMITED. What it really is would be called propaganda by anyone. Just as the big ranch interests try to brainwash you via PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS, so do they brainwash you via radio and television.

On April 23, 1967, Wes Bisgaard made a talk on AGRICULTURE UNLIMITED which caused the writer to investigate the statements of Bisgaard and to investigate who he is. One of the statements he made is "that half our property taxes go to support welfare". This is not true. The money that comes from property taxes in the County only amounts to \$450,000 to be used for welfare. The rest of the money for welfare amounting to around \$4 millions comes from Federal and State sources. Bisgaard claimed the ranchers carried the burden of the property taxes. This is untrue as they escape \$8 millions yearly.

The County budget amounting to about \$14 millions is met as follows: (not including schools, special districts, etc.)

County Taxes	State & Federal	Balance Available	Rev. of Fees
\$4 millions	\$6.8 millions	\$1.4 millions	\$1.8 millions

These are the official figures given out by the County. You can see that the State & Federal funds are bigger than the \$4 millions collected in County property taxes. Most of the County money is used to pay the county payroll and all the activities that a county engages in. But for welfare, the county only provides \$450,000 yearly while the

State and Federal Governments provide the other \$4 millions.

Bisgaard advocated a "sales tax on grocery items up to 25% if necessary to support welfare". Can you imagine what he wants- that you when you buy \$1.00 in groceries to pay 25 cents extra.

Now look at page 285 of the Imperial County budget for 1966-67, and you will see that the poor on welfare got in 1966 \$4.5 millions to live on. If you will look on page 12, Brawley News Feb. 10, 1967 or page 1 Section 2 of the Imperial Valley Press (El Centro), you will find the same article telling how the big ranchers of Imperial Valley got \$11.2 millions in cash farm subsidies (charity handouts) from the Federal government in 1966.

THIS MEANS THAT THE MILLIONAIRE MOOCHERS GOT ABOUT 3 TIMES MORE IN HANDOUTS THAN THE POOR ON WELFARE.

But this is not all. When the poor get the \$4.5 millions, they spend it locally with the merchants and businessmen who are having very poor business here. In the last 2 months, the Raseo Dept. Store closed in Brawley. In El Centro, Bee's Discount Store at 5th & Main closed and the Valley Furniture Store of 430 Main is closing. It may interest you to know that chain organizations like S.H. Kress, F.W. Woolworth, Karl's Shoe Store, Franklin Dress Shop, Ballard & Brockett, Thom McAn Shoe, Western Auto Supply, Pep Boys Auto Supply, Golden State bottling plant, and Weber's Baking plant closed in the previous 6 years because of lack of customers. The small independents who closed are too numerous to mention.

One of the big reasons for the bad business of the stores, etc. is that 80% of the \$11.2 millions that go to the big ranchers leaves the Valley to go to the MILLIONAIRE MOOCHERS that do not live here. This means that \$9 millions leave the Valley so that only a little over \$2 millions stay in the Valley and is spent locally to support the local businessmen. So you can realize that the poor with their \$4.5 millions give more support to the local merchants than the ABSENTEE MILLIONAIRE MOOCHERS.

The other big reason for bad economic conditions here is that the big ranchers will not give the work to local farmworkers and instead give it to Mexicans who are "greencarders" who live in Mexico. They cross the border each day to work and cross back in the evening to spend their wages in Mexico to the detriment of local merchants. These "green carders" get the work because they will work at wages that a domestic farmworker can not support himself and family.

The property tax records of Wes Bisgaard were investigated in the County Assessor's office. It was found that he had 307 acres. This acreage is incorrectly assessed so that Bisgaard escapes about \$3,000 yearly on his taxes. For example, MPR 170, 50-030-15, a parcel 40 acres is only assessed at \$6,000. Since the assessment is supposed to be at 1/4 of the market price, this 40 acres would be worth \$24,000 or \$600 per acre. This land is worth at least \$1,000 per acre.

On this acreage of 307 acres, Wes Bisgaard is escaping about \$9,000 in irrigation water charges because of the swindling by the Imperial Irrigation District whereby you are charged 3 times the correct electricity prices so that the ranchers get their irrigation water at 1/4 the correct cost. So you can see that from this short investigation, that Wes Bisgaard escapes \$3,000 and \$9,000 for a total of \$12,000 which is the amount of money that 3 women with 26 children would receive from Welfare so that they do not starve.

It was immediately seen that Wes Bisgaard could not be a MILLIONAIRE MOOCHER like the Elmeres are. He is a smalltime operator who is not worth further investigation. He is just a stooge fronting for the real big guys. The probabilities are that he leases about another 500 acres to farm and thereby escapes another \$12,000 in taxes and water charges. Finally, as to Federal handouts for cotton, beets, etc. he probably gets about \$10,000 yearly which is the amount 2 women with 22 children would get. Wes Bisgaard is just a BIG NOISE-little man