

NEWS LETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN

Brawley, Calif.

Nov. 14, 1960

TO THE TAXPAYERS WHO LIVE IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

You have received your County property tax statement this month. LOOK AT HOW MUCH YOU HAVE TO PAY!!! Do you know that if the absentee landowners paid their correct taxes, that you would have to pay $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount that you are being forced to pay now?

The amount you pay is going to be increased 15% next year because the State Board of Equalization has ordered it. Do you know why?

When a County collects the property taxes, a certain percentage of the taxes go to the State of California. Therefore, it is very important that each County put correct assessed valuations on city property and farmland. If this is done, the State of California will collect its correct share from city property and farmland.

In Imperial County, the city property has been given the correct assessed valuation. BUT THE FARMLAND WHICH IS OWNED 70% BY ABSENTEE LANDLORDS HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE CORRECT VALUATION.

If you are a taxpayer that has a \$14,000 house, you have an assessed valuation of \$7,000. This is 50% of the true value. YET THE ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE ALL THE FARMLAND, ONLY PAY ON 10% OF THE TRUE VALUE OF THE FARMLAND.

For example, the Irvine Co. is an absentee landowner who has 25,000 acres of land worth \$25,000,000. This company should pay on an assessed valuation of 12½ million dollars. IT ONLY PAYS ON AN ASSESSED VALUATION OF 2½ MILLION DOLLARS.

The State Board of Equalization about 5 years ago ordered a 37% increase in taxes. But the matter was so maneuvered that the city property paid the increased taxes mainly. Now the State Board has ordered another 15% increase.

The absentee landlords own 70% of the farmland, The local wealthy farmers own 20%. These two groups own 90% of the farmland. They escape paying in property taxes 3 times the amount of the combined taxes paid by the little farmers and inhabitants of the cities.

WHEN THESE TAXES ARE NOT COLLECTED, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE COUNTY TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS. THE COUNTY ALSO IS UNABLE TO PAY DECENT WAGES TO THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

The El Centro Post-Press and the Brawley News publish the propaganda of the big farmers and big landowners every day. This fools the taxpayers. That is why I am printing this News Letter. These two newspapers will not publish my statements about taxes and other topics of interest to all the citizens.

Therefore, do not throw these News Letters away. Distribute them to all your friends. Discuss these subjects with all the citizens. Let them know the truth as I can not mail a News Letter to each one. JOHN BOWMAN, THE ASSESSOR COLLECTOR MUST NOT BE ELECTED. ANOTHER CANDIDATE WILL RUN AT THE NEXT ELECTION.