

June 25, 1967

I.I.D. IS STILL SWINDLING YOU

In a Newsletter dated April 15, 1967 and entitled "MILLIONAIRE MOOCHERS ARE STILL AT IT", it was revealed how the Imperial Irrigation District, a public agency located in Imperial County, Calif. was swindling the people by giving \$1 million to the big ranchers who use the money to build private concrete irrigation ditches on their private land.

It was shown that these big ranchers pay about \$4 millions yearly for irrigation water to the District. So if \$1 million is given back to them yearly, it means that these big ranches were given a 25% reduction in water charges by this subterfuge. But the big mass of people consisting of workers, merchants, and businessmen and their families who form 99½% of the population and who use most of the electricity sold by the Imperial Irrigation District DID NOT GET A REDUCTION IN THEIR ELECTRICITY BILLS.

There was no attempt by the I.I.D. to give the people a reduction in their electricity bills by offering to pay 75% of the cost involved in putting in new electrical wiring in a private home or a merchant's store which would have been equal to what the big ranchers were getting.

So now that the people have learned about another swindling racket perpetrated on them by the big ranchers who control the I.I.D., this public agency supposedly owned by the people and supposedly run for the benefit of the people, is staging another big propaganda campaign to fool the people into thinking that they are finally getting something of benefit from the I.I.D.

It bears constant repetition that the Imperial Irrigation District from the moment it was formed in 1911 until 1937, was constantly bankrupt during that period and could not pay on time the interest and principal on its bonds. During this period, THE I.I.D. SOLD ONLY IRRIGATION WATER. It would never charge the correct price for the water to the ranchers and that is why it was always broke.

As a matter of fact, from 1931 to 1961, a period of 30 years, it illegally cheated the people in the towns here by charging the towns twice the water rate that it charged the ranchers. So when this was revealed about 6 years ago by a Newsletter, the I.I.D. also put out a statement full of lies and distortions as a smoke-screen to fool the citizens. But Dr. Yellen accomplished his purpose then. The Imperial Irrigation District was forced to charge the towns the same water rate as charged to the big ranchers.

Now, here is how the main electricity swindle works. The I.I.D. should charge the big ranchers \$9.00 an acre foot for water. This water comes from the Colorado River and travels 60 miles to 180 miles before it reaches its destination. For instance, the Bruce Church Ranch just South of Brawley, pays \$2.00 per acre foot for irrigation water which has travelled 100 miles. Yet this very same company pays \$9.00 per acre foot on farmland it has leased in the Indian Reservation which is on the Arizona side of the Parker Dam. The irrigation water only travels 10 miles to this farmland

on the Indian Reservation.

The main swindling done by the I.I.D. is by charging 1/4 the correct price for the irrigation water to the big ranchers who use 99 1/2% of the water. The people who consist of the workers, merchants, and businessmen only use less than 1/2 of 1% of the irrigation water but use 95% of the electricity. They, the people, are charged 3 times the correct electricity rate so that the big ranchers can get the water for 1/4 the correct cost. The cheating is \$14 millions yearly.

Since 1937, the Imperial Irrigation District has been doing this electricity swindling. So since that time, it has been able to come out of the bankruptcy it has been in for 25 years and now has about \$22 millions in cash in the banks. THIS IS THE MONEY IT HAS STOLEN FROM YOU IN ELECTRICITY BILLS SO THAT THE BIG RANCHERS COULD GET THE IRRIGATION WATER BELOW COST AND AT THE SAME TIME BUILD UP A SURPLUS IN CASH. Your electric bill should be 1/3 of what it is!!!

So the Imperial Irrigation District boasts about being successful. Well if you believe the I.I.D., it would mean that crooks who are not caught in a fraud can also be considered a success.

On June 13, 1967, the Pinkley newspapers in Brawley, El Centro, and Calexico, all had a big headline across the top of the front page in big black letters, 1 1/8 inch tall. The headline reads, "IID ENDS ALL PROPERTY TAX". This is all a fake to fool you people who are being cheated on your electricity bills. In addition to using the Pinkley newspapers, radio stations and TV to fool you, the I.I.D. is brainwashing you as a "captive audience" when it sends you its electricity bill with its little propaganda newspaper called the DISTRICT NEWS. It brainwashes you on the \$14 millions electric swindle.

So read this Newsletter carefully to understand how you are being swindled. If you read the Pinkley newspapers, you will see it in black and white that the people in the towns will save \$200,000 yearly by not paying the IID tax. But the ranchers will save \$610,000 by not paying the tax. This is according to the statements of the I.I.D. itself. So by its own admission, the ranchers will save 3 times what the city people do. But this is a big fake. The townspeople have their land at the correct assessment so that they have been paying their correct taxes all these years. But all the farmland is incorrectly assessed so that every rancher escapes at least 50% of the IID taxes. When you consider this fact, the truth is that the ranchers should have been paying IID taxes of \$1,200,000 yearly (double \$600,000). So you can see who this benefits when the property tax is stopped--the ranchers really benefit 6 times more than the townspeople who only stop paying \$200,000. BUT THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE NOT REALLY GOING TO GET THE BENEFIT OF THIS BECAUSE THE MONEY NEEDED BY THE I.I.D. WILL MORE AND MORE COME FROM THE ELECTRICITY BILLS ON WHICH YOU ARE BEING CHEATED ABOUT \$14 MILLIONS YEARLY.

Read what Nettie Brown wrote in the L.A. Times of June 14, 1967 as to why the property tax was stopped----"The main reason for the board's action, explained district president Lom Thompson, is that the Internal Revenue Service has refused to allow farmers to deduct as business expenses, taxes paid to the district". So here is another reason why this is a fake.

Nowhere in the Pinkley newspapers (up to the moment that this Newsletter was written) is there printed that the Southern California Gas Co. has announced its fourth reduction in gas rates in 3 years. This is an investor owned company which has to pay 48% of its profits as Federal Income tax. Yet the I.I.D. which pays no Federal Income tax will not give reductions in electricity rates to the swindled electricity customers. It can easily reduce electric rates.

The Mountain Empire Electric Cooperative which sells electricity around the Jacumba vicinity has just announced a 15% reduction. This cooperative does not pay Federal Income taxes. The IID tax stop is being called "Bevins' Brainchild" but should be called "Bevins' Balance" for Carl Bevins, the director is a "MILLIONAIRE MOOCHER".