

July 20, 1967

SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS

There is a chain of newspapers, the Indio News, the Brawley News, the El Centro Post-Press, and the Calexico News, all located in Southern California close to the Mexican border. The publisher of these papers was Virgil Pinkley.

Now Pinkley was a bigtime newspaperman who had been chief of the European division of the United Press located in London, England during World War II. After the war, he was for about 6 years the Editor of the Los Angeles Mirror, an afternoon paper, which was part of the Los Angeles Times group. Then Virgil Pinkley with a group of other investors bought up these 4 newspapers and Pinkley became the publisher. It must be understood that Pinkley is not some small town editor subject to the economic and social pressures commonly met in small towns. He is known all over the U.S. and in Europe.

There are very serious problems in the area served by these newspapers. First, by the provisions of the U.S. Reclamation Law, there are supposed to be only family farms with a husband and wife not having over 320 acres. This is a desert area where there is constant sunshine, a 12 month constant farming season, no drought, no cold, no rainstorms and no floods. Because of all this, 1 acre here equals 5 acres in the Midwest or South of the United States in agricultural production. 320 acres here equals 1,600 acres in the rest of the U.S.

But in violation of the U.S. Reclamation Law, big ranchers most of them absentee landowners, have been doing the farming here. They have prevented residents of this area from farming and have squeezed out the little ranches by hogging the \$11.2 millions that are given out as farm handouts by the Federal Government.

In addition, the big farm interests are swindling the people of \$14 millions yearly by excessive electricity bills so that the large ranches can get the irrigation water at 1/4 the correct price. Then by controlling the Assessor-Collector of Imperial County, the people are being swindled out of \$8 millions yearly in property taxes by the very same big ranches. The ranches do this by having the Assessor assess their land at 1/3 that it should be assessed. There are innumerable other swindling rackets of smaller degree perpetrated on the people by the large farm interests.

Virgil Pinkley kept a CURTAIN OF SILENCE on all these activities by the big ranchers. Letters to the Editor complaining about these problems were sent to the newspapers but none of them were printed. So this Newsletter was born to pierce the CURTAIN OF SILENCE put up by Pinkley. Pinkley not only kept silent on these problems but he printed propaganda articles put out by the big farm interests to brainwash the people.

SO MANY NEWSLETTERS WERE PUT OUT TELLING HOW PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS WAS BRAINWASHING THE PEOPLE.

In 1964, the newspaper chain's majority ownership, was bought

by the company owning the newspaper THE TRIBUNE of South Bend, Ind. (address is 223 West Colfax). When this happened, Franklin D. Schurz, the publisher of the TRIBUNE was notified many times as to how Virgil Pinkley was suppressing the news, twisting the news, and putting out the propaganda of the big farm interests. Nothing much happened but there seemed to be a slight improvement especially when a column entitled PROBE began to be printed in this chain of newspapers.

Recently, Virgil Pinkley sold out his interest in the chain and stopped being the publisher. So the responsibility for how the newspapers print the news belongs to Franklin D. Schurz. So the chain has been renamed SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS to indicate what is going on now.

On June 26, 1967, PROBE answered a complaint about high electricity bills. Apparently, the reporter had gone to the Imperial Irrigation District to get the answer. He reported that an average user in Palm Springs served by the Southern Calif. Edison Co. would pay \$38.94 per month whereas the resident of the I.I.D. would pay \$38.30 per month in the summertime desert heat.

But this is nonsense because the Southern California Edison Co. is an investor owned company which pays heavy property taxes, heavy Federal and State income taxes and also dividends to the stockholders. The Imperial Irrigation District is a public agency that does not pay any of these items.

The electric bill of the I.I.D. should have been compared with the bill of another public agency like the Tennessee Valley Authority. In the Wall St. Journal of July 5, 1967, there is an article which tells how the T.V.A. charges homes in the city \$6.78 for 1,000 kilowatt hours per month. A home in the I.I.D. located in the city would pay \$19.55 in the summer. So you see that the I.I.D. charges almost 3 times the rate of the T.V.A. which also does not pay property taxes, Federal & State income taxes, and dividends to stockholders.

So if an average user in Palm Springs pays \$38.94 a month in the summer when the heat is 110 degrees and airconditioning is used, the city home in the I.I.D. should pay \$13.27 if the correct rates like those of the T.V.A. were being used. As it is now, you are forced to pay \$38.30 and being swindled out of out \$25.03 monthly.

All this was explained in the Newsletters entitled THE HIDDEN ELECTRICITY BILL and MORE DETAILS ON THE ELECTRICITY RACKET. These were sent to SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS so it could make a correction in PROBE. But to this date it has not done so. PROBE is constantly putting out additions and corrections. Recently, it gave more addresses for nudists camps and where to buy bagpipes, but apparently swindling electricity bills must not be discussed.

On July 10, 1967, there was a meeting of the Brawley City Council at which reporter Jim Duke of SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS was present to report what happened. Councilman Ben Yellen brought up the matter of the Imperial Irrigation District swindling the City of Brawley out of \$300,000.00 in water bills between 1931 and 1961. He wanted the City Attorney to investigate this and sue under the anti-trust laws which will give triple damages for a grand total of \$1.2 millions. The City Council ordered the City Attorney to study this matter and report back. SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS did not print one word about this.

Councilman Yellen also wanted the city to put the property of the I.I.D. located in Brawley, on the city tax rolls. It is estimated that the Imperial Irrigation District would pay city property taxes of about \$150,000 yearly. This would result in a 40% reduction in taxes to the residents of Brawley. The City of Los Angeles pays \$2.6 millions in taxes to Inyo and Mono Counties for its Owens River Water system. The newspapers printed nothing on this. SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS has a CURTAIN OF SILENCE on real news!!!!