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THE HONOR BELONGS TO PROFESSOR PAUL S. TAYLOR

On Dec. 31, 1972 and Jan. 14, 1973, the MIKE WALLACE program entitled "60 MINUTES" was shown by the Columbia Broadcasting System coast to coast. One segment of this program was about the battle for the land and water in Imperial Valley, California. Depending on the outcome of this struggle, it will be determined whether the small farmers who live on the land will get the irrigation water necessary to be able to farm in the 17 Western States.

At present, big absentee corporations which I claim to be in violation of the U.S. Reclamation Law, are getting the water and squeezing out the small farmers.

In this Mike Wallace program, I was featured as the little man fighting the big corporations. I had asked the Mike Wallace people to interview Professor Paul S. Taylor, retired Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley, Calif. for without his great aid to me, I would not have been able to accomplish anything. But there is an important time limit in these expensive television programs, and no interview with Professor Taylor was shown.

Professor Taylor is 78 years of age and has spent 40 years trying to get the U.S. Reclamation Law enforced. He is an international authority on land and water problems and has been called into consultation by foreign governments. His knowledge on these matters is so vast I know that I can not approach him since most of my time is taken up by my physician duties.

Yet I am given the credit for this fight without mention of Professor Taylor in the NBC-TV NEWS broadcast of Feb. 6, 1972, in an article in IRRIGATION AGE magazine of March 1972, in the books THE MEGASTATES OF AMERICA and THE PACIFIC STATES OF AMERICA, both by Neal R. Peirce, in THE NADER REPORT "POWER AND LAND IN CALIFORNIA" and numerous newspaper articles, e.g. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (April 5/72) article.

To set the record straight, this Newsletter will give the circumstances of what led me to Professor Taylor and how without his help, I could not have accomplished anything.

In the 1950's Mexicans living in Mexico were imported under Public Law #78 to do farmwork in the United States and especially California. They were paid 70 cents an hour. So our domestic farmworkers who could not make a living on 70 cents an hour were squeezed out of Imperial Valley. Many of the domestic farmworkers were my patients, and I lost them.

The merchants were also badly affected and many stores closed. Yet no merchant or businessman had the courage singly or as a group to fight what was going on. I began to fight for our domestic farmworkers. Then I found out that the imported Public Law #78 Mexicans were being swindled in various ways. There is too much to tell, so the emphasis will be given to the medical swindle. Most of them earned only \$14.00 per week. They had to pay \$12.25 weekly for food which consisted of beans three times a day. Then they paid 90 cents

weekly for medical insurance. So when the food and medical premium are added, the sum is \$13.15. When this is subtracted from \$14.00, it leaves the Public Law #78 Mexican 85 cents after a week's work. I used to make photocopies of these paychecks for 85 cents and send them all over the United States to inform people.

But most important, notice that the Mexican was paying 90 cents out of \$14.00 for medical insurance which is 6½% and this so-called medical insurance applied only to him and he was in the age group of 19 years to 35 years, the healthiest part of one's life. But even so, the Mexican could not get medical treatment, for physicians did not want to treat them for \$2.00 per visit. Those of us who took pity on them and tried to treat them had a bad experience. For instance, Dr. Nathan Wolf had to sue to get payment for 2 dollars a visit.

I, who taught the Mexicans and loaned them money to go to the Justice Court to sue for the injustices, was forbidden to treat them. When a Mexican sued in the Justice Court, the big growers got the U. S. Border Patrol to catch the Mexican and run him out of the United States. So that was the end of the lawsuit.

I sent many complaints to F. Britton McConnell, State Commissioner of Insurance of California but he did nothing. So in 1958, I filed a do-it-yourself lawsuit against McConnell in the Imperial County Superior Court (Docket #32023) charging him with being in a conspiracy with the Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago and/or the PanAmerican Underwriters to swindle the Public Law #78 Braceros and the physicians in this medical insurance racket. It was particularly pointed out that in violation of the State insurance law no brochure had been given to the Mexicans so that nobody, the Mexicans, physicians or hospitals knew what the benefits of the group policy were.

The local newspaper chain known as PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS would not print the news of this lawsuit. I wrote letters to the Editor, Dr. Dwight Wilbur, of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE, the official Journal of the CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. These letters told how the Mexicans and the physicians were being swindled. He would not print my letters. So I sued him in 1959 in the Superior Court (Docket #32652). Pinkley's papers would attack me on behalf of the big farmers.

Then the big boycott started against me. I was kicked out of the Imperial County Medical Society and the California Medical Association and the American Medical Association. I was prevented from operating in the Pioneers Memorial Hospital and the opposition tried to kick me out of the hospital. Space limitations prevent me from giving the many other ways that I was boycotted. My practice fell to less than 50% of what it was. It is interesting to note that Dr. Dwight Wilbur became the President of the American Medical Association in 1968-69. Also interesting is that the stock of the Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago (one of the big ten in the insurance business) rose from \$17.00 to \$115.00 during the period it insured these Mexicans, on the New York Stock Exchange. In 1960, this NEWSLETTER was started to fight Pinkley.

I was desperate as I was being ruined. I had heard vague rumors about the U.S. Reclamation Law. I thought that if it was true that the U.S. Reclamation Law applied to the Imperial Valley, I would fight the boycott by ruining my boycotters. In the summer of 1961, I went to Washington, D.C. to the U.S. Interior Dept. and began to ask questions. I was told, "Why ask us when the biggest expert is in California". I was told about Professor Paul S. Taylor. This was a fatal mistake by the Interior Dept.

When I found Professor Taylor, I was astounded. He had written articles that had been printed in the most reputable Law Journals like the Harvard Law Review. He had given tremendous amounts of testimony before Congressional Committees. I found out that the big landowners influenced the Interior Dept. to not enforce the law. Once I learned all this, I began looking for a lawyer who was not connected with big farmers or water districts controlled by big farmers. I found Arthur Brunwasser and convinced him to be my lawyer after I pointed out to him that the research had all been done by Professor Taylor who was ready to help. Without Professor Paul Taylor's research and efforts, Arthur Brunwasser and I could have done nothing. THANK YOU PROFESSOR PAUL TAYLOR.