

August 15, 1967

FLOYD DOMINY SABOTEUR OF THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAW

If a Chief of Police of a big city went around making speeches and statements that the law about closing houses of prostitution and closing gambling joints is antiquated and should not be enforced because people like to gamble and fornicate, it would seem quite peculiar to you. If you were not a trusting soul, you would even have the suspicion that the Chief of Police was taking the payoff.

The Chief (Commissioner) of the Bureau of Reclamation of the U.S. Interior Dept. whose sworn duty is to enforce the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902 actually goes about making statements to sabotage the enforcement of this law.

In the Los Angeles Times of July 23, 1967 in an article entitled, "160-ACRE LIMIT: IS IT HORSE & BUGGY LAW?", is written, "Floyd E. Dominy, the bureau's commissioner, says that while he's sympathetic to the spirit of the law-it was designed to make sure that the benefits of federal investments be as widely dispersed as possible- he's convinced 160 acres now constitutes too small a farm in most cases".

And then the reporter makes a direct quotation from Dominy which is typical of the statements this saboteur has been making, "I've got a 500-acre cattle breeding farm in Virginia, and it's too small. If I weren't a highly paid government official I'd have lost it long ago".

Now a person may be in an official position where he has to enforce a law he does not like or which he thinks is unenforceable. But he has no right to go about sabotaging the law by statements and speeches. He should leave the office OR BE KICKED OUT. So it is most important to know what has been going on and to know how the big farm interests make big profits when Floyd Dominy does not enforce the U.S. Reclamation Law.

The Southwest of the U.S., particularly Arizona and California do not get much rain. So the region is arid with many parts being just desert. President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902 originated the U.S. Reclamation Law which set up the Bureau of Reclamation as a division of the Dept. of Interior. It was to build dams on Western Rivers like the Colorado and also aqueducts to bring the water impounded behind the dams to the arid areas which would use the water to irrigate the land to grow crops.

President Roosevelt when signing this law in 1902, said, "the money is being spent to build up the little man of the West so that no big man from the East or West can come in and monopolize the water and the land". The way this was to be accomplished was as follows: 1. The person getting the water must live on the land or close by; 2. A person could get enough water to farm 160 acres (husband and wife could farm 320 acres). In this way there would be no absentee landowners and as to the farmers living locally a family could not have more than 320 acres.

But you Easterners and Mid-Westerners should realize that in

reclamation projects like the Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial Valley, Calif. (biggest irrigation district in the Western hemisphere), Coachella Valley Irrigation District, Calif., and the Salt River Project (around Phoenix, Arizona), each acre of land gives a production equal to 5 acres in the Mid-West, Southeast or East. So the farmer of 160 acres is getting the production of 800 acres of the rest of the U.S. Husband and wife have the production of 1,600 acres.

The reason for this is that there is sunshine every day since there are no rains (that is why the land is desert). The weather is warm and crops grow every month of the year. There are no rainstorms to beat down the crops, no drouth to wither the crops, and no freezes as seen in the rest of the U.S.

So you can realize that there is something wrong with the statements by Floyd Dominy since 80% of the reclamation projects have been built in Arizona and California. Anyone who knows the topography of the land in Fairfax County, Virginia where Dominy has his 500 acres farm, will tell you that no more than 200 of the acres can be cultivated because of brocks, trees, rock outcroppings, hills, etc. So at the most this saboteur of the truth gets a production equal to 40 acres in the Imperial Irrigation District (where the writer lives). The rest of Dominy's land can be used only for pasture.

In irrigation farming all the land is used to grow crops because there are no hills, rock outcroppings, etc. Dominy has his 500 acres in what is called a "bedroom county" of Washington, D.C. People work in Washington, D.C. and live the suburban life by having their homes in these "bedroom counties" around the capital. Dominy does not tell you that he has what is called a "tax shelter" by which he buries his high government salary in the farm so that he pays practically no Federal income tax. He does not tell you that his farm is a speculation so that with rising values as more people look for homes in these bedroom counties, Dominy will make a financial killing and only pay capital gains on his Federal income tax when he finally sells the 500 acres.

Saboteur Dominy does not confine his sabotage activities to just putting out the propoganda of the big farm interests who want to do their farming in areas like Imperial Valley, Coachella Valley, Salt River Valley (around Phoenix), Parker Dam region, Yuma Valley, etc. HE ALSO DOES NOT ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAW IN THESE AREAS. He does not inform the Secretary of the Interior where the violations are occurring.

It was the writer of this Newsletter who publicized to the authorities in Washington, D.C. that the U.S. Reclamation Law was not being enforced in the Imperial Irrigation District, Calif. The U.S. Government filed a lawsuit on January 11, 1967 in the U.S. District Court at San Diego, Calif. to enforce the law.

The Law is not enforced in the Coachella Valley, Calif. For example the firm of HEGGELADE & MARGULEAS of San Francisco, Calif. is violating 2 provisions- it is not a local farmer and it has more than 160 acres in cultivation. The Kennedy Bros. of Indio, Calif. in the Coachella Valley collected \$107,466 in 1966 from the Federal Government as a subsidy FOR NOT GROWING COTTON. You can not collect so much in subsidies for not growing cotton unless you are getting water in amounts in violation of the U.S. Reclamation Law to farm on several thousand acres.

In 1945, Secretary of Interior Ickes signed a ruling based on the legal opinion of Solicitor of the Interior Dept. Fowler Harper. This ruling made the Coachella Valley irrigation project subject to the limitations of the U.S. Reclamation Law. The people of this area even voted they wanted the 160 acres limitation enforced when the water was first brought there about 1950. Floyd Dominy has been in the upper echelons of the Reclamation Bureau since 1946. He became Assoc. Commissioner in 1957 and the Chief in 1959. BUT HE HAS NEVER ENFORCED THE LAW HERE WHERE IT WAS RULED THAT IT MUST BE ENFORCED.

Dominy is a traitor to the principles of the Bureau of Reclamation. THIS SABOTEUR MUST BE KICKED OUT SO THAT A NEW CHIEF WILL ENFORCE THE LAW.