

February 15, 1969

SENATOR GEO. MURPHY IS BEFUDDLED

The big farm interests are in the habit of inviting prominent politicians to come to Imperial Valley, California to make speeches. These speakers of course make statements which propagate the viewpoints of the big ranchers for the orators would not have been invited. The local newspapers of SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS and the SAN DIEGO UNION give a prominent report of the statements by the speaker.

ALL THIS IS A FORM OF BRAINWASHING BECAUSE THE NEWSPAPERS MENTIONED WILL NOT PERMIT ANY PRINTING OF THE STATEMENTS OF PERSONS WHO ARE IN OPPOSITION TO THE BIG FARM INTERESTS.

U.S. Senator George Murphy on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 1969, made such statements. On Feb. 12th, The Schurz papers in El Centro and Brawley had this headline on the front page, "MURPHY FAVORS ENDING 160 ACRE LIMITS" The San Diego Union of the same date had this headline, "160 ACRE LAND CURBS RAPPED BY SEN. MURPHY".

THE READERS OF THESE NEWSPAPERS GET ONLY THE BIG RANCHERS VERSION OF THIS 160 ACRE DISPUTE. I HAPPEN TO BE THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION TO THE BIG RANCH INTERESTS IN THIS DISPUTE BUT THE NEWSPAPERS WILL NOT PRINT MY STATEMENTS IN REBUTTAL. SO I HAVE TO MAKE THIS HOMEMADE NEWSLETTER SO THAT PEOPLE CAN FIND OUT BOTH SIDES OF THE ARGUMENT. Please give this Newsletter to others to read.

For the benefit of those who do not live in California, a little background must be given particularly so since these Newsletters are sent to officials in Washington, D.C. who are charged with the enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law which is the matter in dispute.

The biggest industry in California is agriculture. The money value of the crops grown in California amounts to 10% of all crops grown in the United States. This tremendous agricultural production is mainly due to the crops grown in the San Joaquin Valley which is an inland valley about 500 miles long in Central California and another inland valley in Southern California which is 200 miles long.

This inland valley in Southern California is in Riverside County where it is Coachella Valley and the segment in Imperial County is called Imperial Valley. The portion of this valley which extends across the border into Mexico, is named Mexicali Valley. To repeat, it is one continuous valley, 200 miles long, but the name varies according to the jurisdiction it is in. Since I live in the Imperial Valley portion and since this happens to be the biggest segment, I will refer to this Valley as the Imperial Valley for identification.

Both the San Joaquin Valley and the Imperial Valley have this tremendous crop production because the Federal Government under the U.S. Reclamation Law built dams and canals so that irrigation water would be available to these areas. Without the irrigation water, nothing will grow because these areas are desert or semi-desert.

But the U.S. Reclamation Law has two provisions as to who can get the irrigation water and how much. 1. Only bonafide residents living on the ranches or close by can get the water. The purpose of this was to prevent absentee landowners from getting the water.

2. One person can get enough irrigation water to farm 160 acres. (Husband and wife can farm 320 acres). It is important to know that the land in the Imperial Valley has a constant growing season of 12 months per year and with the constant desert sunshine, one acre here gives a production equal to 5 acres in the Midwest or Deep South. So a husband and wife really have the production of 1,600 acres of the Midwest or Deep South.

Now we all know that Senator George Murphy came from the movie business and no doubt he can qualify as an expert in that business. But it is doubtful whether he is an expert in the farming business. As many of you know, Congress has many serious problems to consider. A Senator or Congressman can not be an expert in everything. So Senators and Congressmen are assigned to certain Committees where only certain problems are investigated. These officials as the years go by, become experts in these matters.

Reclamation ~~matters~~ in the U.S. Senate are taken care of by the INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. Senator Murphy has never been on this Committee so that the question comes up whether he has been brainwashed by the big ranch interests so that he makes speeches spouting their propaganda.

Senator Murphy in his speeches here, has said that one person can not make a living on 160 acres and that a farmer needs about \$100,000.00 worth of machinery. But does Senator Murphy know that 160 acres here are equivalent to production of 800 acres in the Midwest? There are Midwest Congressmen who have farms of about 400 acres and they make a living off these farms which really are equivalent to 80 acres here. I advise Senator Murphy to speak to these Congressmen.

A farmer here does not need \$100,000.00 in farm machinery. As a matter of fact, he does not need one cent of farm machinery. The Senator knows that in the movie business, you do not have to own a movie studio, or cameras and the other expensive equipment needed in making movies. You just contract to use movie sets, cameras, etc. etc. to make your movie. This is being done thousands of times without owning any of the physical equipment needed to make a movie.

In farming, there are plowing contractors who will plow the land for you. There are hay baling contractors, beet harvesting contractors, airplane spraying contractors, etc. etc. Every phase of farming can be done by contract. You do not need to own one piece of equipment. The average rancher has one tractor possibly worth \$10,000.00 when new and the rest of the farming is done by contractors. So Senator Murphy's speech saying a farmer needs \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 in farm machinery to operate a family farm of 320 acres is incorrect!

The Senator claims that modern conditions require that the farmer has to farm big acreages now. But look at these figures-Colorado River Land Co. 800,000 acres; Globe Mills Co. 12,000 acres; Imperial Development 16,000 acres; Shintani Ranch 8,000 acres; Andrade Estate 50,000 acres; and Mount Signal Land & Cattle Co. 10,000 acres.

These are a few samples of ranches in the Mexicali Valley in 1919 which is fifty years ago. Does Senator Murphy claim that 1919 was the time of "modern conditions"? The desire for big ranches just expresses a human trait of "the more you got, the more you want".

U.S. Senator Sheridan Downey of California in 1947 tried to break the 160 acres limitation for the benefit of the big landowners in the San Joaquin Valley. At extensive Senate hearings, big ranchers from California gave testimony that under "modern conditions", the 160 acres limitation needed to be broken. But the Fresno Chamber of Commerce which is in the center of this Valley had issued a brochure to entice new farmers to the Valley. This Chamber had the big ranchers on its "Agricultural Committee". The brochure gave these figures as the acreage of crop needed to support a family--Oranges 25 acres, apricots 35 acres; peaches 35 acres; grapes 45 acres; alfalfa 100 acres; and cotton 125 acres. This brochure threw the big ranchers into consternation and defeated Senator Downey in his attempt.

I have much more evidence for you Senator George Murphy but just ~~investigate what you have been told in this little Newsletter...~~