

November 21, 1977

TAX SHELTER VALLEY, U.S.A.

At the present moment, a high powered publicity campaign is going on to fool the U.S. Congress and stampede it to pass a resolution to stop enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902 in Imperial Valley, Calif. known to investment experts as TAX SHELTER VALLEY, U.S.A. for 70% of the farmland is owned by ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS, like syndicates, big corporations, manufacturers, merchants, actors, singers, lawyers, doctors, and other wealthy persons who want "Tax Shelters".

President Theodore Roosevelt when signing the Reclamation Act of 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." This short statement is actually the anti-monopol (anti-trust) law where the Federal Government spends the taxpayers money to build dams and aqueducts so that little people can have farms to live on and irrigation water for their crops in the 17 Western States.

Section 5 of the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902 actually says that only bonafide residents on the farmland, can get the irrigation water for their crops. At the time that this law was being voted on, a cynical New York Congressman voting against the law, said, "We are told that the little people will get the land and water but what will happen is that the big and wealthy from the outside will get the land and water". So now the big and wealthy have them but recent court decisions say that the little people should have them in Imperial Valley and the Westlands Irrigation District in the San Joaquin Valley of California. But this does not deter the big and wealthy for now they have started this big campaign to fool and stampede Congress.

When the Federal Government first announced on Dec. 31, 1964 that it was going to enforce the 160 ACRES PER PERSON LIMITATION(not 160 acres per family), the absentee landowners who have 70% of the farmland or about 325,000 of the 475,000 acres of farmland under cultivation, created the IMPERIAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATES. Robert Long, the Vice-President of the Irvine Co. which has an 88,000 acres farm in Orange County, Calif. and a 220,000 acres ranch in Montana, came to Imperial Valley to make speeches against enforcement. Allyn Kreps of O'Melveny & Myers, the big law firm which had become the lawyers for Imperial Resources Associates also made speeches here against enforcement.

The reason for this was as follows: Dr. Yellen had been teaching the residents of Imperial Valley by means of Newsletters about the Reclamation Law of 1902. The local newspapers then nicknamed PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS, kept the people in ignorance about this law and refused to print Letters to the Editor by Dr. Yellen. Then to get a Gallup poll on how many people had learned and if they wanted the 160 limitation enforced, Dr. Yellen ran for Assessor-Collector of the Imperial Irrigation District on Feb. 3, 1963 on a platform that a vote for Yellen meant a vote for enforcement of the limitation. Such a strategy was necessary because people could not sign a petition for they would lose their jobs or if a businessman, be boycotted by the big farm interests. In this election, 37% of the voters voted for enforcement of the 160 ACRES LIMITATION PER PERSON(not per family). These speeches by Long, Kreps, and others were propaganda against Dr. Yellen's Teachings.

At the present time, there are 35 local big farmers who own about 65,000 acres or 15% of the farmland. When the limitation is enforced, they will lose 25,000 acres. So joining the absentee landowners, they started a campaign named "Call for Fairness" which really is a "Call for Chiseling". NOW THEY CALL THEMSELVES FAMILY FARMERS NOT AGRIBUSINESSMEN!

People still live in fear of losing their jobs or being boycotted, so Dr. Yellen is running for Sheriff of Imperial County on June 6, 1978 on the platform that a vote for Yellen means a vote for enforcement of the residency limitation and also the 160 acres limitation per person.

The truth of the matter is that enforcement of the residency limitation is much more important than enforcement of the 160 acres limitation per person (not per family). When the 160 acres limitation is enforced, these local big farmers will lose about 25,000 acres and they will be left with 40,000 acres. Practically speaking, the average local farm family of husband, wife and 3 children can legally farm 800 acres.

Do not forget that at the present time, there are 830 farms here and 449 of them are below 179 acres according to a 1974 census. These small farms are 54% of the total and exist because they are making money for the owners so that you can realize that all this propaganda about big farms is a bunch of hogwash. Of course the little farm owners do not buy Cadillacs like the 35 local big farmers but they make a living.

When the 325,000 acres of farmland are taken away from the absentee landowners (they will get compensation), our 449 little farmers can get more land and make a better living. In addition, about 1,000 farm families will come in when the absentee landowners are driven out. 1,000 new farm homes will be built on the farmland. There will be a building boom and the town businesses and stores will be heavily patronized and even Dr. Yellen will get a few more patients.

We have 2 forms of pollution here. One is the absentee landowners who have been getting \$100 to \$200 per acre as yearly rent from those who do the actual farming. This \$50 millions in yearly rent has never been spent once here to the detriment of local merchants and businessmen. The Irvine Co., Southern Pacific Land Co., Bixby Land Co., Newhall Land & Farming Co., Union Oil Co., manufacturers, actors, actresses, lawyers, doctors, etc. are these absentee landlords. They collect the big rents and our people take the risks of farming.

The other pollution is the 10,000 Mexicans who live in Mexico and cross the border to work at cheap wages to the detriment of our local farmworkers. They take their wages from farmwork back to Mexicali and our merchants suffer from this also. When we have smaller farms with families living on them, the farm families will do most of their own work and we will get rid of this second form of pollution.

When local people own and farm the land, ownership of land changes quite frequently because of death, etc. Absentee corporation ownership of land results in much less change of ownership. Therefore, when a young man grows up and wants to be a farmer, he will have a much better chance under enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law. At present, he has to leave the Valley to look for work. The young girls also have to leave for there are no young men to marry.

With Reclamation Law enforcement, a young man who does not want to be a farmer, can go into business here for the towns will be booming for the money earned in farming, will be spent at least once here. About 8 years ago, Dr. Yellen put out a Newsletter on Jim House who with Mr. Hausmann were farming 1,700 acres. The only land they owned was 80 acres by Mrs. House. Yet the House and Hausmann families consisted of enough persons that they could farm about 1,600 acres legally if the Reclamation Law was enforced. There is a big group of farmers in the same predicament but can not own land FOR THE TAX SHELTER VULTURES CAN OUTBID THEM ON THE PRICE. So the absentee landlords get exorbitant rents while the local farmers take all the risks of farming which is quite a gamble.

The CITIZENS FOR GOVERNMENT FAIRNESS set up by the local big farmers is just a front for the absentee landowners. On page 5 of the Brawley News of Nov. 7, 1977, Fleming admits that Imperial Resources Associates paid \$86,000 to the Dolphin Group, a public relations firm. This firm with a full page ad in the Washington D.C. Post of Oct. 25, 1977 tried to stampede Congress that Larry Gilbert and his wife and 4 children who looked very sad in the ad, were being deprived of all their land in excess of 160 acres. Tax records show that the Larry Gilbert family only own 80 acres. IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY EXCESS LAND!!! This false, deceptive advertising was also in the S.F. Chronicle, L.A. Times and San Diego Union URGING READERS TO SEND LETTERS TO CONGRESS TO STAMPEDE CONGRESS!!!