

NEWSLETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEL
Brawley, Calif.

June 17, 1969

JOE MCKIM LITTLE FARMER

SCHURZ'S PROSTITUTED PRESS which owns the El Centro Post-Press, the Brawley News, and the Indio News in Imperial and Coachella Valleys of California, has been taking "payoffs" to print the propaganda of the big farmers and to suppress the news how these big farm interests are exploiting the people and the little farmers.

These "payoffs" are in the form of advertisements for farm machinery, fertilizers, insecticides, etc. in these newspapers. But farmers make their decisions as to what product to use not from newspapers of general circulation but from special magazines on farming, personal visits and demonstrations by salesmen, etc. so that the advertisements in Schurz's newspapers are purely "payoffs". Each week on a Tuesday, there are a bunch of these ads in the papers plus some propaganda article to fool the people. Each month, in addition, there is a supplement with the name DESERT FARM NEWS delivered with Schurz's daily newspapers. This is full of these ads and also with many propaganda articles some of which are completely untrue or partially untrue. Schurz does not permit any article or Letter to the Editor by me or anyone else to be printed in his newspapers which are contrary to the propaganda line of the big ranchers. Needless to say, Schurz collects many thousands of dollars in his PROSTITUTED PRESS through these advertisements.

On Tuesday, June 10, 1969, the Schurz papers had these advertisements and the supplement DESERT FARM NEWS. On the second page of the supplement is a propaganda article entitled JOE PAUL MCKIM-FARMER OF THE MONTH. This is the usual propaganda article where by the suppression of the truth, the Schurz papers mislead the readers into believing that it is impossible for one person to make a living if the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902 is enforced as regards to the provision that one person can get only enough water to farm 160 acres.

Everyone is urged to go to the library in El Centro, Brawley, and Indio to read this article which is highly in praise of Mr. Joe McKim. This can be easily seen by the fact that the article calls Mr. McKim, FARMER OF THE MONTH. This small farmer is quoted in the article as saying as regards the 160 acres limitation per person, "If this unrealistic rule was ever enforced it would have a disastrous effect on the valley". When asked about the proposal to limit the handouts a farmer got to \$20,000.00 yearly from the Federal Government, Joe McKim is quoted, "It would have an adverse effect upon the Valley's economy".

SINCE MR. MCKIM IS A SMALL FARMER, HIS ANSWERS ASTOUNDED ME. KNOWING WHAT LIARS THE SCHURZ NEWSPAPERS ARE, I TELEPHONED MR. MCKIM TO ASK IF HE WAS CORRECTLY QUOTED. HE TOLD ME "YES". IT WAS THEN REALIZED BY ME THAT MR. MCKIM IS BRAINWASHED SO THAT HE DOES NOT REALIZE THAT HE IS BEING EXPLOITED BY THE BIG FARM INTERESTS!!!

Here are facts on Joe McKim. He has a wife and 2 children and lives in a beautiful home at 647 Desert Gardens Drive, El Centro, Calif. He is an educated man for he graduated from the University of Calif. at Berkeley and he is 40 years old, old enough to have practical experience so that he should not be fooled easily.

The U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902 which applies to the farmland

of Imperial, Coachella, and Palo Verde Valleys, says that one person is entitled to get irrigation water needed to farm 160 acres only and the person must live on the farm or close by. Absentee farmers are forbidden to get water to farm. Since there are 4 persons in the family of Joe McKim, this family is entitled to get water to farm 4 times 160 acres amounting to 640 acres.

BUT MR. MCKIM OWNS ONLY 300 ACRES. You can realize that if he was not making a good living, he would not be called FARMER OF THE MONTH and instead of a beautiful home in El Centro, his home would be on the actual farmland so as to decrease expenses.

THE FOUR PERSONS IN THE JOE MCKIM FAMILY ARE EACH MAKING A LIVING OFF 75 ACRES!!! But each of them is entitled to make a living off 160 acres or a total of 640 acres for the entire family. MR. MCKIM AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET 340 ACRES BECAUSE ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS BUY THE LAND FOR "TAX SHELTERS" AND ARE WILLING TO PAY HIGHER PRICES FOR THE LAND THAN THE MCKIM FAMILY CAN AFFORD. If the absentee landowners, many of whom also farm the land, were prevented from getting irrigation water for farming and the land would have to be unused, then there would be no incentive economically to buy the land at high prices for the property taxes would be too much on the unused land.

Joe McKim has rented 200 acres more to farm. But when you rent farmland, about half the profits go to the landlord. So on the 200 acres of rented farmland, the Joe McKim family makes the profits that it would receive if it owned 100 acres more. Making an adjustment for this, means that each person in the McKim family is making a living off 100 acres only.

But the propaganda of the big farmers is, "You can't make a living off 160 acres". The big farm interests carefully omit to tell the truth that each person is entitled to farm 160 acres. They are twisting the truth to make you believe that an entire family is supposed to live on 160 acres. The McKim family of four persons is making a very good living but some other family of four might want to actually live on the farmland and not have such a beautiful home as the McKims have. This family can then have a farm of 200 acres (each person making a living off 50 acres) provided this farm family can get cotton and beet allotments which are necessary to any farmer here to stay in the farming business.

IN THE PAST 20 YEARS, 1,600 SMALL FARMERS HAVE BEEN SQUEEZED OUT OF FARMING BY THE BIG FARM INTERESTS AND ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE A MONOPOLY ON THE FEDERAL HANDOUTS WHICH COME FROM HAVING COTTON AND BEET ALLOTMENTS. This is the real reason why the little farmers have gone broke—because they were prevented from getting the handouts—and not because "You can't make a living on 160 acres".

The Joe McKim family is very lucky to have cotton and beet allotments and that is why this small farm family can not be squeezed out. This family receives \$12,077.00 yearly FOR NOT GROWING COTTON besides other handouts. But compare this with the \$358,079.00 that the H.B. Murphy Co. and the \$179,737.00 that the Irvine Co., both absentee big farmers, receive yearly for NOT GROWING COTTON.

\$12 millions in various handouts are given by the Federal Government yearly to farmers in Imperial County. If the U.S. Reclamation Law were enforced and the big absentee farmers and absentee landowners WHO OWN 70% OF THE FARMLAND IN IMPERIAL, COACHELLA, AND PALO VERDE VALLEYS, were driven out, local residents would be able to buy the land at reasonable prices and would get the Federal handouts.

The results would be as follows: husband and wife without children would get \$7,500.00 yearly in handouts if they owned 320 acres; a family like the McKim's owning 640 acres would get handouts of \$15,000.00; a family of 6 having 960 acres would get \$22,500.00 yearly in subsidies.

Joe McKim has been brainwashed. But Alec Wells, the Farm Editor, who wrote this article, knows the true facts which he did not tell to Mr. McKim. WELLS HOODWINKED JOE MCKIM TO MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS!!!