

Oct. 25, 1963

# COSA NOSTRA BONA IN ACTION

Everyone who has lived in an agricultural county, knows that at the county seat there is a "courthouse gang". This is so because the courthouse is the center of county government in that the courts are there plus the meeting room of the Board of Supervisors, the offices of the District Attorney, Assessor-Collector, Recorder, Auditor, etc. etc.

This "courthouse gang" consists of politicians, farmers and businessmen. Under the cloak of legality and respectability, this "county mob" controls the county government, the courts, the Sheriff, the tax collector, the District Attorney, the Grand Jury, etc. etc. Since it is popular now to call gangs by Latin names similar to the New York Cosa Nostra, I believe it is fitting and proper that the "courthouse gang" be renamed "cosa nostra bona" meaning "our good thing". These "cosa nostra bona" cliques are able to prevent competitive businesses from coming into town, or prevent the building of a new hotel, or shift the taxes from big ranch outfits to the backs of the little people. Their rackets are many and since they are in rural areas, the rackets have a rural flavor but the extortion results in the same thing that the big city mobs want---money.

In my previous Newsletter, "Cosa Nostra Bona of California", I was using Imperial County of California as an example how the "courthouse gang" works. You were told that Imperial County ranks 4th amongst the counties of the U.S. with an agricultural production of \$213 millions yearly. You also found out that the big ranches were illegally in Imperial County because they had pulled strings in Washington, D.C. so that the U.S. Reclamation Law as to the 160 acres limitation was not enforced. The large farms escaped 50% to 75% of their farmland taxes by means of fake assessments resulting in the extortion of \$4 millions extra from the little people. The little people were also suffering from a swindling scheme on their electricity because they were being forced to pay 3 times the correct electricity rate so that the big ranches could get cheap irrigation water to do their farming. This extortion amounts to \$14 millions.

You will notice that all these country rackets have a cloak of respectability and legality around them to deceive the people. The local newspaper chain nicknamed, PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS helps the Imperial County "Cosa Nostra Bona" fool the citizens by suppressing all news about these extortion schemes. Herb (Managed News) Klein, the press agent of Richard Nixon, is the editor of the San Diego Union which has 1 to 2 pages on "Imperial Valley", does not permit any news about what the big ranches are doing. 95% of these large farm corporations are Republican owned, and Klein does not like the truth to be known about his Republican friends.

Let me tell you more about the Irvine Co. It owns 93,000 acres in Orange County where another "courthouse gang" is in control. The Irvine Co. escapes paying the correct taxes on its land in Orange County. The pressure is however building up there against this company. So when a developer wants to buy \$1 million worth of land in Orange County from the Irvine Co. to build homes, the Irvine Co. will not sell the land outright because it will have to pay a 25% capital gains tax which will be \$250,000.00. The Irvine Co. makes the devel-



oper go to Imperial Valley and buy the best farmland. No one can offer higher prices because the developer then exchanges the farmland of Imperial County for the land in Orange County. The Irvine Co. by this scheme escapes paying the \$250,000.00 capital gains tax. By these methods, the Irvine Co. which is worth \$120 millions, now has 12,000 acres of the best farmland here. It escapes paying \$120,000.00 yearly in property taxes on these 12,000 acres which are worth \$16 millions.

Now look who owns the Irvine Co. - an Irvine who has married 3 times and each husband had a 100% American name. The James Irvine Foundation owns about \$60 millions of the Irvine Co. The Irvine Foundation is supposedly for charity but in actual practice it was a means of escaping tremendous inheritance taxes which would have resulted in possible loss of control of the Irvine Co. by the Irvines. When the Irvine Co. is attacked for not paying the correct taxes and not paying the correct irrigation water bill, the Irvine Foundation steps into the situation like a press relations firm and gives a few donations to local charities amounting to about \$7,000. The Irvine Foundation thought this would quiet criticism. But in a Newsletter, it was pointed out that the little people paid \$120,000.00 yearly extra in property taxes for the Irvine Co. so that a pica-yune \$7,000 means nothing. The Foundation stopped giving its highly publicized donations. Congressman Wright Patman and his Committee on Foundations has been notified about the James Irvine Foundation acting like a press relations firm.

Most people think of gangs as meaning the use of violence. But throughout the U.S. Senate Anti-Rackets hearing, you hear the constant refrain, "The Italian mobsters are trying to act like legitimate businessmen". So for a change, I will show some violence in Imperial County. In the 1930's, union organization was attempted amongst farm workers and packing shed workers. The Sheriff made every farm owner a Deputy Sheriff and all the foremen were Deputy Sheriffs also. About 2 or 3 union organizers were killed then and nobody was brought to trial. In the winter of 1961-1962, there was a lettuce strike here. All the farmowners and their foremen and sympathizers were made Deputy Sheriffs. Fortunately, nobody was killed. However, goons of the big ranches lassoed pickets and dragged them while the goons were riding horses. The goons of the large ranches use Western cowboy methods here. The newspapers as usual were silent on the ranches' goons.

When the U.S. makes a treaty with a foreign country, this treaty becomes like a law in the United States. All law enforcement officers must help enforce the treaty. Article 22 of the Mexico-American 1951 Agreement regarding Mexican Migrant Labor states that the imported Mexican braceros can not be used in a strike. The Bruce Church Co. (100% American name) was officially judged guilty by the U.S. Dept. of Labor of using Mexican braceros in the 1961-62 lettuce strike. Sheriff Hughes (100% American name) and his 500-1,000 Deputy Sheriffs did nothing to stop the Bruce Church Co. from breaking the treaty. It is the right and duty of any American citizen to stop the violation of a law. The strikers themselves went to enforce the treaty by physically stopping the Mexican braceros from strikebreaking. Sheriff Hughes and his deputies then made wholesale arrests of the strikers who were domestic farmworkers. When the Mexican Ambassador heard about the violence, he made protests and then the U.S. Dept. of Labor finally stepped in and stopped the Mexican braceros from strikebreaking.

Let us leave the violence and go back to the non-violent rackets. There is a surplus of domestic farmworkers in California in the winter-time and the only jobs are the 10,000 in Imperial Valley. Many farmworkers come here from Arkansas from the home areas of Senator McClellan and Congressman Gathings because they can not make wages in Arkansas because the Mexican braceros have the work there also. The large ranches of Imperial County systematically refuse jobs to domestic farmworkers or harass them to make them quit. County Supervisors Carey, Cavanah, Kilgore, Boley, and Langley helped the big farms in their racket of refusing work to domestic farmworkers by not bringing in FEDERAL SURPLUS FOOD to feed the starving domestic workers. So the workers had to leave and the large ranches could claim, "They are no domestic farmworkers here". All these Supervisors have non-Italian names. They are allies of the "Cosa Nostra Bona" which grosses 66 times more per capita than the mobsters of the metropolitan Detroit area.