

December 18, 1967

MRS. OSTERKAMP, IS THIS YOUR CHARITY?

Practically every day one sees in the newspapers articles telling about the charitable deeds of wealthy persons. One never reads of benevolent acts by average people or even the poor.

The article usually reveals that the rich person gave a sum of money to some charitable institution. But all of us when we think about it, know that all benevolent deeds do not involve the giving of money. For instance, a neighbor taking an elderly person to the doctor's office is an act of charity. The elderly person has no auto and has no one to bring her to the medical office. The neighbor who brings her has to use the automobile and spend the time taking the elderly person. When you consider all this, you will realize that the neighbor spent the equivalent of about \$2.50 to do this kind deed.

There are literally millions of such acts of charity done by the average person or the poor. But they do not have paid publicity agents (or amateur publicity agents) to put articles in the newspapers telling about it. As a matter of fact, they prefer to be anonymous and would think it is a lot of nonsense to have it put into the paper.

But the wealthy who are always in the newspapers with their acts of charity, have no inhibitions about their so-called benevolent deeds being proclaimed to the populace. So the question arises- is it an act of charity or is it a flaunting of wealth?

Your attention is therefore drawn to page 2 of the Brawley News of December 6, 1967 where big pictures of the homes of 2 wealthy big ranchers are shown and the public is invited to pay \$1.00 to see the homes. One of these homes is that of Mr. and Mrs. John Osterkamp, a very big rancher, located at 455 South Rio Vista Ave. Brawley.

The Osterkamp family is picked for this Newsletter as typical of what is going on here and not because it is better or worse than the average wealthy ranch family here. Now this "opening of the homes" is ballyhooed as being some sort of charitable act by an amateur publicity agent either connected with the Women's Community Club or the Junior Womens Club. The Brawley News took the pictures and is also in this act of convincing you that this is charity.

Now the article does not state what is to be done with the money but it is supposed that it is going to be donated to some benevolence. Inquiry reveals that possibly 300 persons paid the \$1.00 so the amount gotten is \$300.00 which you must admit is a piddling sum.

But there are facts that must be revealed behind this facade of charity. The wealthy ranchers visit each other and most likely have visited the Osterkamps, so they will not buy \$1.00 tickets to visit. The other wealthy who are not friends with the Osterkamps, have their own swanky homes which are as good or better than the Osterkamps, so they have no inclination to visit them.

So the only 2 economic groups left to do visiting are the people on welfare and the families who have an income of \$5,000 to \$15,000 yearly. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT A LUXURIOUS HOME LOOKS LIKE. But the poor on welfare can not spare the dollar to visit swanky homes.

Practically speaking, the mother and father of the family with the \$5,000 to \$15,000 yearly income therefore have the money and the inclination to visit the Osterkamp home. The question uppermost in the minds of the visitors is how they can afford to have all the luxuries in such a home.

BUT THIS IS NOT REVEALED TO THEM!!!!

Here is the information. The official records of the U.S. Government reveal that in 1966 the Federal Government gave the Osterkamps \$62,719 for "land diversion". These are fancy words meaning that the Osterkamps are being given this money yearly for doing nothing--not growing cotton. These handouts are exactly the same as the handouts given to the poor on welfare who are ill or disabled or children who have no father to support them.

Don't you families with the \$5,000 to \$15,000 yearly income think you can have a luxurious home also if you received \$62,000 yearly as a handout? So since you visit these homes to learn how to get and furnish a similar home, it is suggested to the Jr. Womens Club that a sign be put on each "home open for visiting" telling how much of a handout the owner is receiving.

In the future, Dr. Yellen is going to sell tickets for "visiting of the homes" of ladies with 10 children who are on welfare and get \$4,000 yearly to feed and clothe the children. Visitors will really learn something from these ladies on how not to starve on \$4,000 yearly supporting 10 children.

The visitors to the Osterkamp home need one other important bit of information. First they should read the article on page 11 of the Christian Science Monitor of December 18, 1967 where the following is written, " Senator Metcalf quoted an Internal Revenue Service study as showing that 64% of high income bracket owners of farms--with incomes of \$50,000 or more each in 1965--claim they lost money on their farming operations". You know that John Osterkamp received about \$62,000 in 1966 and he received about the same amount in 1965. So he is in the group of high income bracket of \$50,000 or more. Did Osterkamp and his wife pay any income tax? A sign telling how much income tax was paid by the person "opening his home" should be posted for the visitors.

You folks with an income of \$5,000 to \$15,000 yearly know that the poor on welfare don't pay income taxes. You with your income taxes pay for the support of the poor. Now if the Osterkamps fall into the group of high bracket farmers who claim they lost money farming, **THEY ALSO DO NOT PAY ANY INCOME TAX.** That is why it is important that the "homes visited" show how much income tax the big rancher is paying.

If he pays nothing or very little, it means that you the \$5,000 to \$15,000 yearly income earner are not only supporting the poor but you are also supporting wealthy big ranchers. Maybe you can learn from these big ranchers how they have swanky homes, big Cadillacs, airplanes, and pay no income taxes according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Here are a few other odds and ends about the Osterkamps that you should know. The land he farms on escapes about \$30,000 yearly in property taxes. You have to pay more taxes to make up for him. He escapes about \$75,000 yearly in water bills so that you the average family have between \$100 and \$250 extorted from you in excessive electric bills yearly so that Osterkamp and his fellow ranchers can get irrigation water at 1/4 the correct price from the Imperial Irrigation District.

With the information you have been supplied in this Newsletter, you can now more intelligently discuss with the Osterkamps how to afford Chippendale furniture or Louis Quatorze, or Ming vases, or Picasso paintings, or the kind of wall to wall carpeting for your new home. It is done by getting handouts and just paying very small or no income taxes. Charity has another meaning amongst the big ranchers.