

OPEN LETTER

Ben Yellen, M.D.
128 South 8th St.
Brawley, Calif.

February 25, 1962

To the Members of
Brawley City Council
Brawley, Calif.

Dear Sirs:

The Brawley News has reported that you intend to finance the building of a pipeline from the Imperial Valley Farmers Assoc. Labor Camp which is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North of the city limits to connect with a pipeline belonging to the City of Brawley and leading to our new sewage disposal plant.

The Imperial Valley Farmers Assoc. is a private organization made up of big farmers and which is not even located in the city limits. This Association is quite wealthy and in recent years distributed to its members \$150,000.00 in profits in a single year.

Furthermore the imported Mexican braceros housed in this camp, by getting the farmwork, have caused the serious unemployment of many of our resident farmworkers. These resident farmworkers and their families have in many instances been forced to move so that the merchants of Brawley have lost many customers. Many stores have closed up and the town is becoming a ghost town.

I must point out to you that this camp of the Imperial Valley Farmers Association is outside the city limits of Brawley and as such there is no legal reason for the City of Brawley to finance this pipeline. As a matter of fact, if you go ahead and finance this project, you will be using the Brawley taxpayers money illegally.

The Imperial Valley Farmers Association makes tremendous profits from this camp and there is no moral reason for it to mooch money from the City of Brawley. This Assoc. consists mainly of big corporations whose OWNERS DO NOT EVEN LIVE IN IMPERIAL VALLEY.

Outside Big Growers use 93% of the braceros located in this camp. If Brawley finances this pipeline, it means that outsiders that do not live here or pay city taxes, are getting the use of our money. These very same outsiders escape 50% to 75% of their county property taxes on the farmland they own.

IS THE CITY OF BRAWLEY BEING RUN FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS RESIDENTS OR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THESE OUTSIDERS????

The Imperial Valley Farmers Assoc. has not contributed anything to the new sewage disposal plant. The money came from the residents of Brawley.

The proper procedure is for the Imperial Valley Farmers Association to build the pipeline with their own finances. Then the City of Brawley should charge them a fee for the permission to hook on to our pipeline.

If you persist in the attempt to finance this pipeline for the Association, I intend to start a Citizens Committee to sue each member of the Council for misuse of the city's funds and also ask for punitive damages. We will ask that you repay the city.

Yours truly,
Ben Yellen, M.D.