

August 14, 1980

N.A.A.C.P. DISCRIMINATES AGAINST DR. YELLEN

On August 15, 16, 17 of 1980, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is going to hold a Southern California Regional Conference at El Centro, Calif.

It has scheduled as a speaker Clair Burgener, the Republican incumbent Congressman of the 43rd District. Mr. Burgener is running for election in the coming election in November 1980. Tom Metzger, who is the official Democratic nominee for this Congressional position and who belongs to the Ku Klux Klan, has requested to be a speaker at the conference but has been refused.

Dr. Ben Yellen who is running as an Independent for Congressman for the 43rd District has also requested to be a speaker but also has been refused. Since this District is very large, many of the persons coming to this conference will be subjected to a campaign speech by Mr. Burgener. As will be revealed later, he is so extremely right wing, that literally he can be considered an enemy of the black people.

Now these people coming to such a conference, can not be considered, rank and file. They are activists. Some of them are professional politicians. Ben Solomon, the local N.A.A.C.P. man in charge of arrangements, works for the city of El Centro. Many persons feel that he has this city job for his ability to deliver the black votes to the power structure in El Centro. In the newspapers, he has claimed to be the one to refuse Tom Metzger to make his campaign speech. But the refusal to permit Dr. Yellen to make his campaign speech is hidden by nobody taking the responsibility for it.

Readers should know that the power structure in Imperial Valley is the big farm interests. You do what the big farmers want or you do not have a job or your business is ruined. To show the power of the big farm interests, it is interesting to relate an incident concerning two very prominent members of the N.A.A.C.P. It was January 1978 and the big farm interests had been defeated in August 1977 in the lawsuit U.S. v. Imperial Irrigation District by a decision of the Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. This decision said the the 160 acres limitation must be enforced in Imperial Valley. The big farmers were very angry and used political influence to get the Interior Dept. to send an Assistant Secretary of the Interior to hold a hearing at the local fairgrounds.

The idea of the big farmers was to get their cohorts out to the fairgrounds in a big demonstration to impress the Assistant Secretary of Interior. These cohorts consisted of Mexicans living in Mexico and cross the border to work. These people work at wages that local workers would starve on. So every tractor, even those in sales rooms, was driven to the fairgrounds by these alien people and after this was done, the workers would sit in the grandstand and on signal boo or applaud those who gave testimony although these workers do not understand English.

Yvonne Burke and Mervyn Dymally, two blacks who belong to the N.A.A.C.P. came to give testimony. They came here even though they

know nothing about Imperial Valley. They gave testimony favorable to the big farm interests. In that year Yvonne Burke ran for California State Attorney General and was defeated. Mervyn Dymally ran for Lt. Governor of the State of California in 1978. He was also defeated. The secret of the power of the big farm interests is that they have plenty of money. You can be sure that both Yvonne Burke and Mervyn Dymally received campaign contributions from the big farmers or their allies that year for giving their testimony at the fairgrounds.

SO THE QUESTION ARISES---IS ANYONE RECEIVING MONEY FROM THE BIG FARMERS SO THAT DR. YELLEN IS REFUSED THE CHANCE TO MAKE HIS SPEECH?

And now to Mr. Burgener. He is the darling of the big farmers and has at least \$250,000 for his campaign. None of it is his money. It is all given to him by the big farm interests for he serves them well. Dr. Yellen on the other hand is going to spend about \$5,000 to \$10,000 on his campaign and the reader can help Dr. Yellen by passing this leaflet and his other leaflets for other voters to read.

There is a big struggle going on here to enforce the U.S. Reclamation Law. The U.S. Supreme Court has given a decision recently in the U.S. v. Imperial Irrigation District in which the people here have been fooled by the local papers to believe that the struggle is over. This is not true. The decision was about the 160 acres limitation. But since the U.S. Reclamation Law has a provision which says that the person farming here must live here, this important point has not been settled since 70% of the land is owned by absentee landowners.

These absentee landowners have been charging a rent of \$100.00 per acre per year for inferior land. So for 160 acres, this means a yearly rent of \$16,000 and he pays only about \$200 in taxes. For average land, the absentee landowner collects \$200.00 per acre and 160 acres give a rent of \$32,000 with taxes of about \$600. For superior land for 160 acres he collects \$300.00 per acre and for 160 acres, the landowner collects \$48,000 and pays about \$800. A rough estimate is that a person owning 1,000 acres and farming it himself, his yearly profit is \$250,000.00. Readers who come from farms please explain the significance of all this to city people. If the law was enforced only little people could get the land and farm it. Whites are about 49%, Mexican-Americans about 49%, blacks about 1% and orientals about 1%.

Clair Burgener has been the Congressman most active in trying to change the law so that Imperial Valley be exempt from the Reclamation law for he and the big farm interests know they have not really won by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on the 160 acres limitation for they know that Dr. Yellen is now going to start on the residency limitation. The big farm interests control the Imperial Irrigation District so that the people are charged 3 times the correct price for electricity so that the big farmers can get irrigation water for 1/4 the correct price. Dr. Yellen has black patients that tell him the electricity is so high that they can not use real airconditioning but use water coolers which are not effective when the humidity is high.

If an ordinary person owns a house worth \$20,000 on the open market, it is assessed at 25% or \$5,000 for taxation. If farmland is worth \$20,000, it is assessed at 2% to 6% or \$400 to \$1,200. Farmland escapes 66% of the taxes and 70% of the farmland is owned by absentees. Dr. Yellen has tried to get local lawyers to stop the electricity and taxation swindles but they are afraid. So if you NAACP members know a black lawyer in San Diego or Los Angeles tell him about Dr. Yellen who will hire him. There are several other swindles of lesser extent but there is lack of space to reveal them. The electricity swindle amounts to \$14 millions yearly. Senator Cranston fools you like Burgener.

The Mexican-American population is large and they even have 2 of them on the County Board of Supervisors but they are afraid to talk about the electricity and tax swindles. The whites are the same. These clubs called Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, that the whites call service clubs. The only service you see is their service to the big farm interests and they also do not invite Dr. Yellen to make speeches. They invite Burgener all the time and he talks the usual doubletalk of successful politicians. He never tells you what Dr. Yellen tells you in this leaflet.

So pass this leaflet around and the others Dr. Yellen distributes and you will help outfox the big farmers who want to keep you in ignorance by preventing Dr. Yellen talking to you. POWER TO THE LITTLE PEOPLE.