

Sept. 10, 1968

VOTERS OF BLYTHE, RIPLEY, & PALO VERDE

I am Dr. Ben Yellen, candidate for Assemblyman of the 75th District which includes your area. There are many serious problems in your region. My opponent Victor Veysey has been Assemblyman for 6 years and has made no attempt to solve these problems.

As a matter of fact, Veysey will not even talk about them for he is a member of the big ranchers conspiracy which has been swindling all the people for many years. My opponent at the present time is receiving handouts at the county, state and Federal levels which amount to \$100,000.00 yearly. He wants this to continue as do all the big ranchers so that Veysey will do nothing to help the working people, merchants, businessmen, homeowners, etc. My opponent is a MILLIONAIRE MOOCHER & LEECH.

The first matter to take up is who has the right to get water to farm the land in your region. The big ranchers and Veysey have prevented you from knowing about the U.S. RECLAMATION LAW OF 1902. President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902 when he signed this law said, "the money is being spent to build up the little man of the West so that NO BIG MAN FROM THE EAST OR WEST CAN COME IN AND MONOPOLIZE THE WATER AND THE LAND."

The Boulder Dam which was built in the early 1930's, is subject to the provisions of the U.S. Reclamation Law. This law said--1. Only persons living on the land or close by, could get water to farm; 2. one person can get water to farm 160 acres (husband and wife could farm 320 acres).

Here are the reasons why the Federal Government built the Boulder Dam. In the months of June, July, and August, water from snows in the Rocky Mountains would come down in tremendous amounts in these 3 months. 75% flowed past your region in these 3 months while only 25% flowed in the other 9 months. So crops could be grown in your area and in Imperial County just in the summer but in the winter there was a shortage of water and the crops withered.

In addition, when the big flow of water came, it would break the dike and flood the land. For instance, on May 12, 1922, the Colorado River broke the levee just North of Blythe. The flood waters then ran down the center of what is now the Palo Verde Irrigation District. The entire area was split in two by the flood waters and the crops were ruined. It ruined the City of Ripley so that it never recovered.

But the big ranchers are powerful and have prevented the enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law not only in your area but in the Imperial Irrigation District of Imperial County. By my activities, I have prodded the U.S. Government to start legal action to enforce the law in the Imperial Irrigation District. On Sept. 13, 1968, hearings on this lawsuit will be held in the U.S. Court in San Diego, Calif.

I intend to do the same thing for the Palo Verde Irrigation District which is your region. A big vote for me in your area will show that you working people, merchants, and businessmen, etc. are behind me and want the law enforced. But first you must be told more about the economic effects of this law because you have been brain-washed by the big ranchers.

Now, you should know that the Federal Government gives big handouts to farmers. For instance in the Imperial Irr. Dist., they receive \$12 millions yearly. By contrast, the poor on welfare receive only \$4½ millions yearly. In the Imperial Irrigation District, if the land was divided up so a husband and wife had 320 acres, this family would receive a handout of \$7,500.00 per year. You little people in the Palo Verde area who know farming, if the law was enforced, would also receive about \$7,500.00 per year. Now to give you an idea about the big handouts given to big ranchers, here

is a list:

Wilco Produce	Box 1179, Blythe, Calif.	\$296,484.00
Riverview Farm & Cattle Co.	Rt.1 Box 161, Blythe, Calif.	\$266,654.00
Clarence Robinson	P.O. Box 1064, Blythe, Calif.	\$139,745.00
John Norton Farms	P.O.Box 1000, Blythe, Calif.	\$128,735.00
George Arakelian	P.O. Box 656, Blythe, Calif.	\$67,250.00
George T. Scott	Rt.2 Box 180, Blythe, Calif.	\$63,692.00
Delta Ranches, Inc.	P.O. Box 211, Blythe, Calif.	\$52,335.00
W.K. Kenworthy	301 East Chanslorway, Blythe, Calif.	\$42,001.00

I could keep on listing many more. These big ranchers are paid for DOING NOTHING. These handouts are given them so that they will not grow cotton on a certain amount of land. The fancy name for this is "land withdrawal". But on this land withdrawn from growing cotton, the rancher can grow another crop like alfalfa and also make another pile of money on the alfalfa crop.

Now this is not all. The rancher on other land can grow cotton and feed grains for which he collects what is called "price supports". So in a year he can collect handouts for not growing as shown in the above list and also sums as big as in the list for "price supports".

No matter what the fancy name is that is given to these handouts to the big ranchers, these handouts to the big ranchers are exactly like the handouts to a woman with ten children who are on welfare because the father is dead or has disappeared. Now this woman gave birth to the 10 children which is hard work. She is growing a crop of children. But she gets only \$4,000.00 a year to house, feed, and clothe this crop of 10 children. Now there is this one big difference, the woman is poor and is entitled to help by our taxes but these big ranchers are rich. Victor Veysey gets handouts for growing and not growing crops that amount to \$40,000.00 yearly. That is why I call him and these other big ranchers MILLIONAIRE MOOCHERS & LEECHES.

You residents of the Palo Verde area have the same problem that is present in the Imperial Irrig. Dist. in that about 70% of the farmland is owned by absentee landowners. THIS MEANS THAT 70% OF THE PROFITS OF FARMING LEAVE YOUR AREA WITHOUT BEING SPENT ONCE AMONGST YOUR MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSMEN.

But if the U.S. Reclamation Law was enforced, there would be many farm families owning 320 acres and getting these handouts from the Government. They would spend their money in Blythe, Ripley, and Palo Verde, all of which would be much bigger towns. The merchants and businessmen would have much business.

Many of you wonder how you can get 320 acres. The Government will provide the money in the form of 40 year mortgages at 3% interest. Many of you will think this is unbelievable but do you know that the U.S. takes your tax money and gives it to Latin-American countries in the ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS program? With this money land is bought from big landowners and sold to farmworkers on a long mortgage. If the U.S. does this for people in Latin-American countries, it will do it for you little people in the Palo Verde area. VOTE FOR ME AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL KNOW THAT YOU WANT THE SAME ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS FOR YOURSELVES.

The next big problem is the matter of property taxes. The corrupt assessor of Riverside County has assessed the farmland of the big ranchers at fake low values so that every big rancher escapes at least 50% of his property taxes. If the farmland is situated near a small school, the big rancher can escape as much as 85% of his property taxes. All you homeowners, merchants, businessmen, etc. have to pay more taxes to make up for what the big ranchers do not pay. Do not forget that 70% of the farmland is owned by absentee landowners so that you are being swindled mainly for their benefit. THAT IS WHY ALL YOUR SCHOOLS ARE SHORT OF MONEY.

There is a tax swindle which the Palo Verde Irrigation District is imposing on you. The Board of Directors of this District have men like John Norton and other big farmers on it. Their farmland has these low fake assessments. So they pay very little in taxes to the Palo Verde Irrigation District whereas the rest of you have to pay much more in taxes to the District which is mainly for the benefit of the big ranchers. All you people living in the towns use the same amount of water that a 400 acres ranch uses in one year. So you see the District does not do much for you.

The final big problem is the greencard workers who live in Mexico and cross to work in your area. They put local workers out of work. They pay no taxes. They take the wages back to Mexico and local merchants lose business. THIS MUST BE STOPPED. VOTE FOR BEN YELLEN & GET A MAN WHO IS NOT A BIG RANCHER & WILL ATTACK THESE PROBLEMS!