

## AVEK listens for the voice of the people

The nagging question, "Whither AVEK?" still persists.

After twice failing to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority necessary to pass bonds for its proposed water system, the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency is asking for citizen-suggestions on how it can best meet the future water needs of the Greater Antelope Valley. The first in a series of hearings will be held Jan. 23.

This nagging water dilemma is undoubtedly the biggest problem facing the Antelope Valley.

In the first bond election for \$49 million, in February, 1971, the affirmative vote was about 61 per cent. In last November's election, for a \$69 million bond issue, the affirmative vote was about 54 per cent.

This would seem to indicate that more and more Valley residents are becoming aware of the truly critical need to bring supplemental water into local water systems.

The arguments have been pounded into the ground over and over. It can be — and has been — factually documented that the water table is dropping at an alarming rate — about 7 feet per year.

The fact that this causes greater pumping costs is not debateable.

When wells go out of production because of the water table drop, replacement wells cost tens of thousands of dollars.

In the meantime, taxpayers of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency are paying approximately \$2 million per year for our share of the water entitlement in the aqueduct that flows through our Valley.

It is a true example of water going down the drain, because, although we must pay for it, we cannot use it or get any benefit from it.

Clearly, something must be done.

The AVEK board has wrestled with the problem long and hard and has arrived at logical solutions that would solve the problem at the least possible cost to the taxpayers — but something less than two-thirds of the taxpayers have been convinced.

AVEK is specifically asking for citizens' opinions and suggestions so that this agonizing dilemma can be solved. The agency hopes to explore every idea which may provide a solution, even if that solution is less than perfect.

Every thinking citizen in Antelope Valley is encouraged to bring forth his suggestions. In order that those ideas can be documented and can be examined, the agency is asking those making presentations to present 20 written copies.

(No one, however, will be denied the right to make comments just because he or she does not have the material ready in written form.)

AVEK is listening intently for the voice of the people . . . so, let the people speak on Jan. 23.

PWS-0144-0001

**HALF-PAST TEEN**

now pay 50 per cent or more of their property taxes to support a giant with an insatiable appetite . . . the educational system.

This sad and tragic state of affairs has come about because, somewhere along the line, the people accepted the theory that schools are really meant to effect social change rather than to educate, teachers must be free to do "their own thing" even if that "thing" is to indoctrinate rather than teach, and that we must not discipline the children in our schools or we might damage their spirits.

And so a disastrous experiment continues because there never seems to be three people on a school board at one time who are willing to call a halt to this bad joke and return education to benefit the children at the least cost to the taxpayers.

We desperately need dedicated individuals who will run for these school board seats. We need strong people who are willing to say "NO" to paid year long vacations. We must have strong-hearted people who will demand efficiency and eliminate many totally unnecessary jobs . . . especially in our high schools.

There must be representatives to see that the people are really getting sick, tired and angry at the total disregard which the trustees of our school districts show for the guy who pays the bills!

Try to explain for instance, to a person who is losing everything he has, that it is really necessary to pay \$131,442.98 through 1973 for a school in Palmdale which HAS NOT EVEN BEEN BUILT, and with the declining number of children to educate, will probably never need to be built!

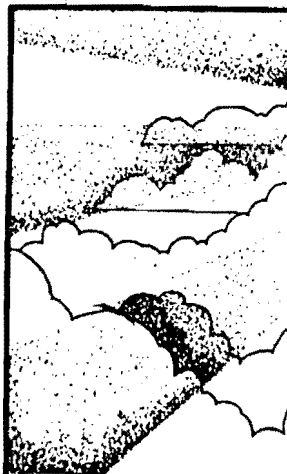
Explain to this same guy why the Palmdale school budget DOUBLED in five years with basically the same number of children to educate, and see if he will believe the cause to be inflation rather than inefficiency and padded jobs. See if he would want his elected school board members to even grant raises if it couldn't be done without BORROWING THE

out.

When mail was moved from train, Mojave would have been a logical SCF location but this practice has been stopped for years. Since about 75 per cent, moreover, of the mail Mojave handles is for the Palmdale-Lancaster area, it does not make sense that the mail be trucked so far out of the area. Revenue-Wise, Mojave ranks fifth. During the fiscal year of 1972, Mojave took in \$2,293.22, compared to \$1,006.05 in Lancaster and \$3,786.55 in Palmdale. Richcrest and Bishop were ahead of Mojave.

Management experience is really limited, especially compared to the offices Mojave serves. They have slashed budgets, thereby reducing services. I am sure this is obvious to most Valley residents already, and things will get worse. About the end of January, they plan on handling all out-going mail which is now handled at local offices. How are they going to manage this increased volume by transferring local personnel to Mojave. Make no sense?

I have copies of some letters and memos sent from



**Beautiful Things  
Un-beautiful Things**

**Like the man whose  
tank was empty**

**a strange bulldozer**

Antelope Valley Press  
Jan. 14, 1973  
p. 6

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