

Reclamation Lands

SIRS: I wrote to Major General Fleming, of the FWA as follows:

... That natural opportunities belong to all, not merely to land holders, has been very clearly recognized and pointed out by the President, in his letter dated October 21, 1943, to Mr. O. S. Warden, President, National Reclamation Association.

In this letter, the President writes: "For the sake of our returning sailors and soldiers, the Nation can also be grateful that the men who fought for reclamation combined their foresight with courage. They wanted to use the public domain to provide opportunities for life and usefulness for large numbers of independent farmers, so they wrote anti-land monopoly into the reclamation laws ... They wanted no speculators to reap all of the value of government investment ... so they wrote anti-land speculation provisions into the basic law ..."

The same basic question and conflict between land speculators and land users is inescapable in every federal works project. Such projects, I submit, have very little, if any, effect on incomes derived from wages or interest, but do serve to increase rent. (As "rent" is defined in Bouviers Law Dictionary.)

In the book "The Plough and the Sword" by Schmidt (Columbia Univ. Press) the vast projects of Mussolini are examined, and their results to the common good are a cogent warning.

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