

Every so often; some of our elected officials tell us there are "problems" at the slabs. They define those problems for us, and tell us how our tax dollars should be spent to solve these alleged problems; whether they are real or invented! They make statements which get media coverage; and of course the rumors start flying. This time; their antics have drawn the attention of the San Diego Union, the L.A. Times; and who knows how far the word may travel.

If it were not for the fact that thousands of "snowbirds" flock to the slabs each winter and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in Imperial County; these antics would likely do little damage. As it is; many of our "winter guests" who have been coming for years; may well decide to go elsewhere. Problems and hassles, they don't want; which is why most of them began coming to the slabs in the first place.

- That; and the fact that they can camp rent free; where there are no "camp hosts" or "managers" running around with clipboards, telling them where they can or cannot park their rigs; how long they can stay, etc.; ad infinitum, ad nauseum, ad hassle!

At their July 12th meeting; the Imperial Co. Board of Supervisors voted 4 to 1 in favor of negotiating a "lease" of the slab property from the State; who has been "stuck" with it since the '40s, and would love to "dump" it; if someone could be found to take it off the state's hands.

The "proposal" is to lease it from the state (thus incurring county liability); "clean it up"; make "improvements"; and "turn it into a primitive camping area"; charging only a ONE DOLLAR A DAY camping fee!

Fiscally unsound? Sure it is! But the four supervisors who are "pushing" this BOONDOGGLE can always find reasons why "adjustments in projections" are necessary. Right now, the thing is to make it a "done deal" BEFORE facts and figures come under public scrutiny!

Other counties seem to need \$4.00 to \$6.00 per camper/day to maintain a primitive camp ground; but that's after it's established and operating; NOT during it's "proposal" stage; when voter support is being courted to get the scheme off the ground. - Once the lease is signed; the county MUST proceed in accordance with the terms of the lease. Simply put; things will start happening. - EXPENSIVE things!