By David J. Willmott, Editor

# Dear Perry

By the time you read this you will have passed some kind of budget. We hope that those fellows from upstate, who gave you such a hard time, held out effectively for even deeper cuts. You know, Perry, they did what a lot of us wish our representatives would dorepresent us. This is not meant as sarcasm to you. We understand the position you are in having to pass a budget for a like-party governor. Still, somehow it seems unfair to the people of your district that, because of your position, you can't give them the representation they deserve. We suppose that it is impossible for anyone to wear two hats completely objectively.

Speaking of objectivity brings us to the point of this week's communication. Among the education ills we discussed last November was the tenure system - the system by which after three years of teaching a teacher is given a lifetime contract with the school district. As we understand it the legislature gave this to the teachers in lieu of decent pay. This was before your time in state government. The point was to give teachers security even if they didn't receive adequate compensation. It was also designed to keep politics out of the school system so that a teacher could not be dismissed at the whim of an administrator or school board.

You probably have had many letters from school boards asking you to do something about this. Undoubtedly, you have had a lot more letters from teachers demanding that you keep your hands off the matter. The fact remains that the tenure system is a very bad system. From your own business experience you know that some employees can be good for a couple of years and then go to pot. They may show up for work most of the time but their productivity deteriorates, and they cease to care. You are known as a good businessman, and, as such, you would talk to these people and try to salvage them. If they didn't shape up, however, you would have to dismiss them. Can you imagine what it must be like to try to run a big business, such as a school, without being able to weed out your undesireable employees? This is the handicap that we have placed our schools under. Worse than the economic disadvantages are the educational disadvantages we are placing our children under.

Previously, when money wasn't so tight and schools didn't have to sweat, as they will this year, the school board could take an incompetent teacher with tenure and assign him to non-teaching duties such as study hall where he could do the least damage. All that happened was that the taxpayer got bigger bills. Now that there is no more loose money around, the schools are going to have to use these incompetents in teaching positions and our kids and the good teachers will suffer.

Now that the business of passing a budget is out of the way we feel you should give serious thought to undoing some of the mandated regulations that school boards have to labor under. The tenure system should receive top priority for elimination. You will get a lot of static from the various teacher organizations, as we do every time we write about this subject, but the time for soul searching on this matter is now. We are paying teachers good salaries, and there is no justification for giving them a lifetime of security on top of it. The only thing that can happen is that the school boards will be free to relieve themselves of incompetents and replace them with better qualified teachers. This would be a very positive step in guaranteeing that New York State provides the quality education that you are taxing us so heavily for.

All of us, and particularly the kids, would appreciate your doing what you can on this matter. And why not?

### **Forced Medication**

Bureaucrats in the state and county are at it again. Now they are trying to force everyone, regardless of choice, to accept medication through the state mandate requiring all public water supplies to be chlorinated.

The town of Riverhead has balked at this demand and is defying the county which has pushed the deadline from the state mandated deadline of January 1, 1973 to April 1, 1971. The county wants all public water systems to use this form of poison whether there is a bacterial count in the water or not.

Chlorine is a form of poison which, if taken in sufficient quantities, can kill you. Like so many other chemicals there are no definitive studies to determine the long range effects of chlorine in the diet. There is no proof that someday it won't be considered in the same category as DDT; or cyclamates. Still, the health department wants every public water system to begin pouring this poison into all the water used for public consumption even when it has been proven that there is no need for it. We congratulate the town of Riverhead for refusing to comply. Riverhead has good, clean pure

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# Suffolk Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N.Y. 288-3900

Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 - or Box 167 Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

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Limit 2



Editorial cont. from page 3

water. Residents of Riverhead have gone the route of having chemicals in their water before. The results were disastrous, and public opinion forced the cessation of that program.

We believe that the town should find out who mandated this. Which bureaucrat was responsible, or was this a quiet bill passed by the state legislature? If it was passed by the legislature does it mean that all water has to be chlorinated, even water without a trace of harmful bacteria?

Riverhead's government action is commendable and should serve as a valuable lesson to all governments. They have questioned a directive rather than following it blindly when there is no need. If more governments would look before they leap, a lot of hardship could be avoided. And why not?

### Are We Worth It?

Two-thousand years ago a man died an agonizing death on the cross to show mankind that there was a better way to live life. Those of us in the Christian faith believe He could have avoided such an excruciating ordeal because He was the Son of God - Jesus Christ. Knowing this, and having been taught this lesson, we must all ask ourselves, during this high holy period: Are we worth it, and are we leading a life that proves it? And why not?

# **Happy Easter**

May Peter Cottontail come hopping down all the kiddies' paths with baskets brimming with colored eggs and delicious chocolates. May the sun shine brightly on the pretty maidens in their new Easter finery and the moms and dads decked out in their Sunday best. May you all have a joyous Easter 1971. And why not?

# Swezey's Has A Winner



Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bronkhorst of Riverhead are the winners of Swezey's "Salute to Holland" 21-day trip for two to seven European countries. In the photo, the Bronkhorsts officially receive the good news from Swezey's Vice President Jack Luchsinger and Store Manager John Bates. The prize is part of Swezey's Seventy-seventh Birthday Sale. (Francke)

By David J. Willmott, Editor

### Down To One

Under reapportionment, based on the 1970 census, it appears likely that eastern Long Island's representation will be reduced to one on the new county board. This is not because the east end has lost population, quite the contrary, but the west end, particularly Smithtown, western Brookhaven and Islip, have grown far out of proportion to us.

What little voice we have on the county level will be diminished by 50 percent. That's 50 percent of what is now only a whisper. This reapportionment will be in effect for the next ten years. At a time when we face the greatest increase in population in our history we will have virtually no voice in directing our own development. The powers of the west will be able to do just what they want to do with us, and we won't even be able to put up a decent fight.

The crucial time has come now for splitting the county. Let the west wreak its own wanton destruction upon itself, but leave us free to preserve and develop our own area as we must. Opponents of the new county proposition have never been able to prove wrong the many arguments favoring its formation. Financial feasibility studies on the matter have overwhelmingly favored splitting.

Opponents of a Suffolk County split have shouted loud and clear that the east end has lost interest in a split. Just the opposite is the case. Those of us who have supported this move are as dedicated as we ever were. We have been waiting for the necessary legislation to be passed by the state. Some of this has already been accomplished, and, rest assured, if the state does not remove all of the obstacles within its jurisdiction to this end there will be a battle royal.

Our future can only be determined by ourselves. We have seen what the west end power brokers have done with their area, and we are pledged to prevent this from happening to our own wonderful area.

The battle is far from over; let's just say we are in a brief Iull. And why not?

# **Preparing For Strike**

The state legislature, in the closing hours of its budget battle, passed four laws pertaining to teachers. Tenure teaching-time requirements were increased from three to five years, minimum requirements were eliminated, a years moratorium was placed on sabbatical leaves, and college professors will now be required to teach a minimum of 9 to 15 classroom hours per week.

The militant leaders of the teachers are furious.

Even though none of these measures will have any adverse effect upon them, they are threatening a statewide teachers strike to force the legislature to rescind these measures. This would be in direct violation of their contracts and a violation of the Taylor Law governing public employees.

If this strike occurs, and it appears that, in all likelihood it will, the legislature and all of the school boards across the state should have a plan of action. Since the teachers will be in violation of both their contracts and the Taylor Law they will, in reality, have quit their jobs and relinquished their responsibilities as teachers. By quitting they will have given up all seniority and tenure privileges. They will also be placing their pensions in jeopardy.

If the teachers demand a showdown they should be prepared to suffer the consequences. Any teacher who walks out should have to be rehired. Any teachers who walk out on their students must realize that they will forfeit their privilege of being rehired under their old standing. Those teachers who feel that they are above the law by taking the law into their own hands must be made to realize that the penalty for this will be a total loss of all seniority privileges.

Of course, the school boards and the legislature must be unified and make this stick. If they don't, they will never win another battle with government employees.

The time has come for a showdown. Either the schools are going to be run by and for the people, for our childrens' benefit, or they are going to be run for the benefit of the teachers. This is the burning issue that has faced us for the past several years. It is about time we settled it once and for all. Now is the time. And why not?

Cont page 4



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EDITORIAL from page 3

### Local Election This November

1971 is an odd year, and in odd years we hold local elections. Usually the losers don't bother to do their homework, and, as a result, they end up losers.

It is not too late to begin preparations for an all-out campaign for this year's elections. Now is the time to start on fund raising projects and to form work crews. Now is the time to do your research and to open the dialogue on pertinent issues. We have seen too many good candidates lose because they waited until October before gathering the information necessary to convince the voters of the need for change.

Now the candidates should be doing their utmost to gain exposure and to make themselves known to the voters. Now they should be speaking out on the vital issues that affect us all. We no longer live in very small towns where everybody knows everybody else. People move in and out of our local area at the rate of a 25 whosh www. Week nonsu

percent turnover every year. This means that two years ago in any local area half the people who were there then have been replaced.

Suffolk Life offers its Letters to the Editor column to all candidates so that they can make their views known to the voters. Write us and write often. All we ask is that you keep your letters to a reasonable length. Make yourself heard now. And why not?

National:

วทีน อยากจอกโด

Sate

Boating

President Nixon has designated July 4 - 11 as NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK. One can be sure that the U.S.Coast Guard Auxiliary will be doing their share in your area, not only during Safe Boating Week, but all through the boating season.

For further information about the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary call Henry Bergamaschi, Captain Division XVIII, 728-1894 or write Director of Auxiliary, Third Coast Guard District (NA), Governors/Island, New York, Na Na 100042011 17 11100

By David J. Willmott, Editor

# Registered On A Silver Platter

We have noted with annoyance, over the last few years, different groups putting pressure on the county to provide extraordinary means for registering prospective voters. Ideas for this "easy registration" have run the gamut from mobile registration vehicles to sending teams to beaches in the summertime to enlist prospective voters. The latest group to call for specialized treatment are the teenagers who have just been given the right to vote in national elections. They petitioned the county, this past week, to bring registration officials into the schools so that eighteenyear-olds could register.

Anyone can register at the Board of Elections any working day of the year at Yaphank. Around the end of September one can register at his local town hall. During the early part of October registration is held at all local polling places throughout the county. We don't know what registration arrangements could possibly be more convenient. We would think that anyone who wants to exercise his privilege to vote could certainly get off his rear end and make use of the existing arrangements to register himself. If not, we cannot see why we as taxpayers should be asked to foot the bill for additional arrangements so that these lazybones can be registered at their convenience.

Being a good American does take a little bit of effort. Really all one has to do is remain informed about the aforementioned times and places for voter registration. If you can't make the effort to register at your local polling place before election day, we frankly doubt that you will make the effort to vote at all. If you can't put yourself out to make this modest effort then you aren't worth much as a citizen and have no right to vote or complain about how your government is run.

We don't need spoon fed citizens who want everything handed to them on a silver platter. And why not?

### Put To A Vote

Somewhere high up in political circles the master plan has become bogged down by small minds. This blueprint for our future development is probably the most important document that has ever been devised. There are some parts of it which we endorse; other parts we find fault with. When it was first unveiled we had hoped to see some enlightened discussion as to the pros and cons of its proposals. For some reason such discussions have not been forthcoming. Maybe the

overwhelming mass of facts and figures frightens too many people. Too few people have taken the time or made the effort to dig through what is trying to be said. As a result no one wants to commit himself to the adoption of the plan because of the long range implications of such a measure. While the plan has become bogged down in political maneuvering and counter-maneuvering some speculators have seized the opportunity to acquire property which, if the master plan is adopted, will increase in value dramatically.

Mr. Dennison has been very critical of the foot dragging on the master plan. A week ago he suggested that it be brought to a referendum for passage or rejection by the voters. This was a logical proposal and the first that we have heard with respect to the whole matter. The master plan affects all of us - both now and in the future. Bringing the matter to a vote would at least initiate substantial dialogue on the subject and prod many to sit down and read it before shooting their mouths off. Such dialogue would enable people to better comprehend the details of the plan so that they could form clearer judgements of its value. They would then be in a much better position to accept the responsibility for determining their own future. They would not be forced to abrogate their responsibility to uneducated politicians who have been kicking the master plan around in their smoke-filled back rooms. This plan should have been scheduled for referendum in the first place. Now it is the only way the plan can be passed without acquiring political tint and tarnish. Bring it to a vote this November. And why not?



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By David J. Willmott, Editor

# Welfare Spotlight

President Nixon and Governor Rockefeller both spoke out last week on the subject of welfare. From the tone of their comments it appeared clear that they had been listening to the comments made by millions of average citizens. It seems that there is a nationwide unanimity of opinion that the present structure of the welfare state is a monumental failure.

We felt that there was an undercurrent of plain, ordinary politics in both of their official statements. The mood of the people is to tolerate no more. It's good politics to speak out against welfare but only in vague generalities. After all, you can't take something away from somebody without running the chance of losing his vote.

The welfare problem could be solved very quickly if different attitudes were adopted. The fact is that no one has the right to a life of ease bought through the proceeds and deeds of another man. All men, however, share the responsibility of seeing to it that their fellowmen can engage in the "pursuit of happiness" according to their own abilities and industriousness. If a man is willing to work he is certainly entitled to the necessities of life. The luxuries may follow if he is willing to exert his mind and body to their utmost. Formal government should provide nothing more than the climate of freedom under which conscientious men. can pursue their goals. Fundamental welfare reform would include government's setting up regulations whereby every man, woman and child of working age, capable of performing needed tasks, could be given the opportunity to do so. A loan fund could be set up so that any American citizen could draw upon it with two stipulations: 1. The loan must not exceed an amount the recipient would earn under the minimum wage less normal deductions and 2. The loan must be repaid. The creation of rehabilitation training and the encouragement of private enterprise to participate cooperatively should be promulgated so that those who desire to better themselves have the opportunity to do so. The creation of a public service job pool would enable government to get all sorts of jobs done that never seem to get done because of cost and lack of manpower. Such jobs would fall into many categories such as the cleaning up of ponds, rivers, woodlands and roadsides and the planting of burnt-out-forests, group babysitting for working mothers, personal aid to the aged and handicapped including cooking, house cleaning and maintenance of property. Such employees would be paid legal minimum wage scale for a 40 hour week less normal deductions in private industry.

When more profitable employment could be found then these people should be encouraged to leave these programs and rejoin the mainstream of society. Their only obligation to the state, in the event they had not actually worked a full 40 hours per week while receiving full compensation for same, would be to repay the unearned portion of their compensation.

Under the present welfare system we have created a society within a society-a society of workers who have been reduced to the status of slaves to those who live off the fruit of the labor of others. There are few incentives for the welfare takers to abandon their way of life and rejoin the ranks of the workers. Frequently,

by playing the welfare game shrewdly they enjoy more of the luxuries of life than many of those who are taxed to the hilt to support their indolence. There are documented cases of welfare recipients wearing the latest in new clothing styles, enjoying color television and stereo systems, alcoholic beverages, telephones, and last winter we even read of several welfare recipients being sent off on ski weekends so that they could get a break from their environment. When the working society, which often cannot afford the same luxuries, is forced to pay for the luxuries of the non-working then something is cockeyed.

The pathetic thing about all this is that this second society is not satisfied with the system. They want more and, in many cases they want out, but they are trapped by the economics of the overall plan. The economics of the welfare system have grown, over the years, to include many more benefits than just the basic necessities which was originally intended. The whole welfare bureaucracy has become so overburdened with red tape and administrative procedures and personnel that a hugely disproportionate amount of the welfare tax dollar goes for administration instead of benefits. So now we have an overburdened taxpaying public at the end of its rope and a coddled, unmotivated welfare class that is afraid to leave the sancuary of the dole for the productive world.

Today's welfare set-up is a disaster. It must be junked or reevaluated and reorganized to conform with its original intentions. And why not?

### Ripe For Ruin

Southold Town is considered to be the last rural frontier on Long Island. Developers have long looked at its real estate with hungry eyes. Its miles of natural waterfront conjure up visons of fat profits. Its wetland can be filled in relatively inexpensively, and, with a minimal investment, an astute developer can realize millions. Its zoning laws, its political structure and its

Cont. Page 10



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71 - SAY YOU SAW IT IN SUFFOLK LIFE - PAGE

WEDNE SDAY APRIL 28 1971 -

# Charney's Liquors

SALE EFFECTIVE TODAY THRU MONDAY

# RIVERHEAD SHOPPING PLAZA ON ROUTE 58 NEXT TO GRANTS



Editorial from Page 3

apathetic citizens all lend themselves to a profiteer's dream.

Under the Nassau - Suffolk Regional Planning Board's master plan Southold is destined to become a bedroom community for people who work to the west. These planners envision the area covered with homes not the Levittown type but more expensive and, for the developer, more profitable. In an area of expensive homes waterfront homes are even that much more expensive. The more waterfront property that can be created by altering Mother Nature's existing land-scape the more profit to the owners of that property.

Knowing this, and having to work with Southold's very poorly designed proposed master plan, the speculators are having a field day in filling in the wetlands preparatory to the windfall that is surely to come. Caution has been thrown to the winds. On most any day of the week you can observe the trucks that are moving in and out of the town dump - not bringing in garbage but taking out fill for deposit on the wetlands. Here is a town pledged to protecting the environment and pretending to care about keeping the north fork beautiful while encouraging its ruination by providing the speculators with cheap fill to do just the opposite of what they should be doing.

This is not surprising when one recalls the former Riverhead Supervisor's comments about Southold Town's government after the bitter Corps of Army Engineers hearings on the Levon Properties. He stated then, "Those politicians (Southold Town's) are mad because Levon's jetties have stopped the flow of sand that used to be stopped by the breakwater at Mattituck. They used to mine this sand and sell it once a year. This paid some of their taxes. The jetties now stop it in

Riverhead Town, and they no longer have this income. If the truth were known this is what they are really upset about."

Southold Town government has been fooling around with a master plan for over a year now. They have failed to adopt it. It is bad enough that the plan is weak and ineffective but it is worse that such an unnecessary amount of time has been spent in filling the holes in the plan before bringing it up for adoption. It almost seems as if they have deliberately taken their time with it. Many residents are asking why.

Many of Southold Town's more interested citizens are also asking why the Conservation Advisory Council has not taken a more active part in seeing the wet landsportion of the Master Plan Implemented. One has only to look at the commission itself to find the answers. Instead of being truly representative of the conservation-ecology interests in the town, the council was hand-picked by politicians more out of political interests than for the services that these people should perform.

people could perform.

As a result of inaction by the town government Southold is rapidly becoming another west-end town ruined for all for the profit of a few. We cannot urge the residents of this beautiful town strongly enough to stand up and holler now - to demand action NOW! Each day another portion of the town is being lost. Once lost it-can never be recovered.

If your elected officials will not be responsive, look to other leaders who will be. Southold Town desperately needs positive, meaningful leadership. Lack of it, in the past has already caused irrevocable damage. It's very late, but there is still a glimmer of hope. And why not?