

Why the government won't stop inflation

Young or old, rich or poor, the most ominous economic problem we face is inflation.

Every dollar we have in savings is depreciated from six to 10 per cent per year. Every cent we invest in a pension fund or life insurance policy at current dollars will be returned to us when we retire at a fraction of today's worth.

Just a couple of decades ago, it was fairly easy for our parents to plan for our future education and their own retirement.

Because of inflation, no one today can make long-range plans. Day in and day out, businesses and the public are caught in the squeeze of rising prices and the dollar buying less.

Inflation is the number one killer in the economy. You would think our government would make inflation control its number one economic priority. It doesn't. The federal government is the direct beneficiary of inflation.

Under our current system of taxes, as people's income increases so does the percentage of taxes they pay, regardless of what happens to the real buying power of their money.

Less than 20 years ago, most people here on Long Island were in the lowest tax bracket. Their federal taxes ran under 17 per cent. Today in 1978, the average family income is over \$18,000 per year, which puts them in a 30 per cent tax bracket. Yet this income, as astronomical as it may seem, buys less than \$7,500 did in the late '50's.

The system of taxation we suffer under continually increases the percentage of our income confiscated as the gross amount is increased, regardless of the buying power of the dollar.

Unless there are radical changes made in our tax system before the end of the century, even those at the lowest end of our income scale will be taxed in the top bracket.

In addition, the recent changes made in the Social Security taxes amounted not only to a 20 per cent increase in the rate, but an extension in the maximum amount of money in taxes they can collect on. This will result in the average person's real buying power being reduced by over another three per cent.

As we have our wages and incomes pushed up through inflation, we lose because even if we are fortunate enough to have these increases keep up with inflation, the government confiscates a larger percentage of our earnings, which leaves us with less dollars to buy necessities and if we are lucky enough, a few luxuries.

There is an answer to this problem. In Canada, national taxes are indexed to inflation. As inflation erodes the value of the dollar, the tax base on which the percentage is applied is increased accordingly. This system allows Canadian resident's buying power to keep up with inflation.

It takes away from their national government the incentive to cause inflation. Let's face facts, the cause of inflation is our U.S. government and the bureaucrats who run it. Any time they want you to pay more taxes, they only have to print more paper money and put it in circulation.

As they print more paper, the value of our old money decreases in worth. To compensate for this decrease in value, workers must demand more in wages and manufacturers must charge more for products.

The end result is simply people are shifted from a lower tax bracket to a higher one and the federal government confiscates a larger percentage of the worker's earnings, the corporations profit without having to announce a tax increase.

Additionally, the government today either directly or indirectly controls or contributes over 60 per cent of the gross national product.

Between their economic clout and their ability to print paper they pass off as money, they have the absolute mechanism for controlling the economic growth of this country and inflation.

With this almost awesome power, over the economy, the federal government at any time can speed up or slow down the rate of inflation and by having this mechanism for taxation, they effectively hold every American in economic bondage or more bluntly put slavery.

Being an American wage earner closely resembles the system of the country store or even more germane to our area being a worker on a

migrant labor camp.

Don't think our federal government is not aware of this. A year ago last October, when we were reviewing the Congressional candidates, we discussed the need for the adoption of the Canadian system here in the U.S.

Congressman Pike, when asked if he would introduce or support legislation for the adoption of this system, quietly and quite dramatically answered "No."

"After all, the federal government needs money too." Pike at least was candid but in his candor typifies the Washington mentality that looks upon all of us as economic slaves created to serve the Washington master, the imbedded bureaucracy that is ripping the heart out of this great country.

Is there anything you can do?

Yes, in selecting a Congressman this fall, make sure he is absolutely and totally committed to the adoption of the Canadian system.

Write to your friends, relatives and

business associates in other parts of the country, and ask them to obtain a commitment from their Congressmen also.

Write to the Chairman of the House, Ways and Means Committee and also to President Carter demanding this system be adopted.

Our present system of taxation has been allowed to continue and rob you of your real buying power because Washington felt you were ignorant about this system.

The bureaucracy grows and becomes unresponsive because of our ignorance and apathy.

If each of us would sit down and write a simple note letting Washington politicians know we are aware and want change, we can achieve success.

Your voice as unimportant as it may seem on the great national scene is the strongest voice we have. Use it. For your own benefit, do so today. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'Let fish spawn!'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Your editorial on the proposed law to ban gill netting of weakfish in the spawning season overlooks objections to this law, which were brought into the open at a sport fishermen's conclave last year.

In the first place, gill netting is significant in catching weakfish only when they spawn in Great South Bay. The weakfish that come to spawn in Peconic Bay and in North Shore bays are more a prey to fish traps and haul seines. If we are to protect weakfish at spawning time, a law should be comprehensive.

The gill netting ban is of special interest to the Great South Bay anglers, who, when the fish aren't biting, get upset because they see gill netters harvesting the fish nearby.

What the anglers generally do not know is that the sport fishermen's catch of weakfish on the whole Atlantic coast is far greater than that of the commercial fishermen's! This is true for striped bass also.

So, if the anglers are going to demand a curtailment of commercial catches, they should be willing to curtail their own. Supposedly, a limit of 6 fish per day per angler was to be made part of the package, but we have yet to hear that Montauk and Peconic anglers and boat captains have agreed to this.

In any case, anglers roaring up and down weakfish spawning grounds with 60 hp outboards are not helping the spawning process.

In fresh water and the Hudson, the problem of protecting spawning fish has been solved, either by banning all fishing in the spawning season, or setting days when the fish can reach the spawning grounds unimpeded. However, the sponsors of the weakfish bill don't seem to want to learn from other people's experience.

Sincerely,
Frederick Lightfoot
Greenport

'Town should inspect Welfare properties'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I must disagree with some points in your recent editorial, "Towns should inspect welfare properties." We at the EOC of Suffolk worked hard to get the County Executive to veto last year's pre-inspection law, and to have the Legislature sustain that veto. It was a bad law.

It is especially interesting to me that your conservative instincts seem to have escaped you on this issue. Consider that by having the Towns do the inspections, you are adding another level of government to the welfare process. Consider that Towns would be carrying out a County function but would not be reimbursed by the County for this duty. Consider that the County would be precluding itself from taking an action until another level of government had acted, and that it would have no power to make it act quickly and no remedy if it never acted to inspect the proposed housing. And finally, consider the motel bills the County would be incurring

while public assistance recipients waited for their housing to be approved.

I believe each of these factors to be bad policy, and would have thought that your conservative instincts would have caused you to have a similar opinion.

Having the County do the pre-inspections will cut out costly red tape and accomplish the important objective of seeing to it that public assistance recipients do not move into substandard housing. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the Towns would not lose any of their present powers to enforce their local ordinances. Right now, they can if they want to and I think it is foolish for the County to pass a law to try to force them to if they won't or don't want to.

Sincerely,
Donnie Price
Executive Director

ED. NOTE: Home rule is one of the basics of conservative philosophies.

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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You can still stop the canal give-away

Last Thursday I sat on the veranda at the Tropic Star Lodge located on Pinas Bay in Panama. I listened to the roll call vote for the first of the two Panama Canal treaties.

As Javits and Moynihan cast their affirmative votes, I felt betrayed and angry.

Do either of these men know what they are doing? The Panamanian Canal Company is estimated in today's current market price to be worth over \$16 billion.

The canal company is owned by every U.S. citizen. Your stake and my stake in the canal company is worth \$8,000. Yes, every man, woman and child in the United States owns an individual share worth \$8,000 of the canal company.

If effect, when Javits and Moynihan cast their affirmative votes for the first of the two treaties, they knowingly and willingly were voting to give away your personal \$8,000 investment.

This fact has been hidden from the American public. They knew if you started to look at the canal as your canal, you would not stand for it being given away.

To give you some idea of the amount of real estate our government is on the verge of giving up, the canal zone can be compared with our own South Fork, from Montauk to Eastport.

The canal zone is a strip 50 miles long and 10 miles wide. Would you be willing to give up East Hampton, Quogue or Westhampton Beach to

some foreign country and pay large sums for them to take the property off your hands to boot?

Although it is called the Panama Canal, it is 100 per cent the United States' canal. Only by chance, does it happen to lie in the country of Panama, which itself only came into existence through the aid of our United States government.

A private French corporation labored from 1880 to 1900 trying to build a canal. They were defeated by disease and financial problems.

Over the next three years, our United States government formed a corporation called the Panama Canal Co. They negotiated with the former French interests but were unable to work out a deal with the Columbian government for the right to take over where the French left off.

At that time, however, the Columbian government was undergoing a revolution.

In 1903, the United States government made a deal with the revolutionaries of what is now Panama to support their cause and to guarantee the establishment and security of an independent Panama.

In Article I of the original treaty of 1903, it states "the United States government guarantees and will maintain the independence of the Republic of Panama."

In effect, the United States not only established an American canal in Panama but established and guaranteed the country of Panama itself, formerly the northern tip of

Columbia.

Before construction started, the American government and the canal company tied up every loose end. Article II establishes the Canal Zone and "grants to the United States in perpetuity the use, occupation and control" of this zone of land and the waters underneath.

In Article III Panama granted "the United States all the rights, power and authority within the zone... which the United States would possess and exercise, if it were the sovereign... to the entire exclusion of the exercise by the Republic of Panama of any such sovereign rights, power or authority."

It should be plain from the reading of these articles the terms under which we entered into the canal agreement.

These treaties were signed not only by the United States government and the heads of the new revolutionary Panamanian government, but they were signed by every member of the cabinet of the Panamanian government.

The United States bought the exclusive and perpetual use of the canal zone from the Panamanian government for \$10 million. We bought from Columbia any rights or interest they may or may not have had in the country of Panama and the Panama Canal Zone for \$25 million.

They agreed to pay Panama a perpetual annuity commencing in 1913 for the disruption of the Panama Railroad.

On May 4, 1904, the Panama Canal Company purchased from the French Canal Company their rights and properties for \$40 million.

In addition, the United States bought and paid for over 3,000 titles held by private landowners from around the world for which we paid over \$5 million.

There is no question that we covered every base and bought legally, the land and the water rights of the Panama Canal. It cost us 10 years in time and almost \$400 million to build the original canal.

Since its completion, we have poured in an additional \$8 billion into the canal. Now, with inflation and other costs, the canal is estimated to be worth in excess of \$16 billion.

This is the reason we felt angered and betrayed when Moynihan and Javits voted to give away our personal \$8,000 share of the Panama Canal Zone. Your share is \$8,000 too, so is your spouse's, so is your children's.

If our liberal Senators were in such a generous mood and our government can afford to reduce their assets by \$16 billion, let them send us \$8,000 per head that we can apply to our mortgages or towards our taxes so that we don't have to lose our homes.

As one Panamanian said to us, "Deje su dinero aqui y valase." "Leave your money here and go." And why not?

NEXT: Can the Panamanians run the canal themselves?

Readers' Opinion

'If this atrocious spending isn't halted . . .'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

As I am most adamantly opposed to indiscriminate spending on the part of school boards, I greatly enjoyed your article, "School board members visit magic kingdom."

I feel that in this age of inflation and spiraling educational costs, we, as school board members, should draw the line on unnecessary spending rather than promote it by these extravagant conference trips. Board members run for office without monetary concerns, yet some find built-in ways to fleece the taxpayer. If these board members do not have the decency to police themselves, then the matter must be brought to the state legislature.

The one convention that I attended in Albany may have been well intended, but I feel it was a waste of money and time, in so far as I could have learned more by reading news articles on education.

Recently, there was a very well attended conference in Atlanta, Georgia and another one in California. Here we sit, in the greatest state in the nation, and our board members travel to the south where the educational standard is amongst the lowest in the country. What do they hope to learn? I wonder how well these conferences would be attended if they were held in the ice belt and the consequences were frost-bite and discomfort rather than suntan.

How unfortunate it is that the young

taxpayer, or the senior citizen will never see the sun because of the overpowering shadow of financial burden that our school boards are casting over them. And most pitiful of all is what awaits our children in their "Tomorrowland" if this atrocious spending isn't halted immediately and more energy devoted to enhancing the quality of education

at a price that the taxpayer can afford.

The next conferences should be held at Death Valley where vultures can meet vultures and perhaps feast upon the sun baked bones of education. (L-7X)

Sincerely,
John G. Linehan
Member Wm. Floyd School Board

'I see history repeating itself.'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I remember vividly the days when people and forces in this community were afraid and intimidated by your outspoken opinions. These groups, through devious maneuverings and inuendo, were out to rid the community of your newspaper. You, however, stood up for your convictions and as a result, your paper survived and flourished. Your name today still conjurs up the image of a "proud man-fighter".

I see history repeating itself, but now the inuendos and devious maneuverings are being perpetrated by you personally through your editorial of March 26 and by your newspaper staff in your feature, article, March 22. Your primary target (though others are involved) seems to be the Schem Board of Education. I wonder why?

I do not wish to discuss whether the school board members should attend conventions. That is not the issue. The issue by intent seems to be class character defamation. I particularly resent your statement that school board members who attend conventions are on "the take". Your inference that members who do attend these con-

ventions lack "integrity", is a shallow statement, without serious thought and smacks of tawdry journalistic license.

If you seriously want to do an in-depth study of the actions of school board members who are on the take, I suggest that you include the following: (1) school board members who sit back because of a lack of knowledge and who do not take seriously their responsibility in the administering of their school districts; (2) school board members who are rubberstamps for an administration and who are not interested or compassionate for the taxpayer but are merely interested in inflating their own egos; and (3) school board members who pass out jobs to friends in return for political support, ie, nepotism. These, Mr. Willmott, are the real thieves and robbers of the taxpayers' money because they breed mediocrity and introduce politics neither of which belong in the realm of public education. (L-8X)

Yours truly,
Claudette J. Price
Wife of Donald Price, member of Schem Bd. of Education.

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willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

A give-away will run canal aground

For the past 70 years, the operation of the Panama Canal has been a model of efficiency. It is a smooth-running technological wonder which has served not only the United States but all nations of the world extremely well.

Last year alone, more than 13,000 ships, bearing flags of all nations used the canal carrying 117 million long tons of cargo. For the privilege, those ships paid \$134 million in tolls, making the U.S.-owned Panama Canal Co. one of the major enterprises in the world. Despite the revenue brought in, the canal company fees are among the lowest of any major waterway in the world, far less expensive, for example, than the Suez Canal in Egypt.

What will happen if its operation is given over to the Panamanians? In one word -- disaster.

It is not illogical to expect that the canal will be run in much the same way that the Panamanians run their government. That government is known for two things -- an iron-fisted dictator and a system of bribery which runs from the bottom to the top of the bureaucracy.

The Panamanian government is controlled by a military dictator, Omar Torrijos, who runs Panama with an iron fist.

On street corners and in public buildings, in restaurants and casinos, his Nazi-styled dressed National Guardsmen patrol.

Even in the hinterlands, they are apparent. When we stepped off the plane in Harque, a small native village in the middle of the jungle, 150 miles south of Panama City, a uniformed henchman of the government had the natives under control.

The Panamanians elect a Senate which is supposed to run the government, but even that body is closely overseen and manipulated by the dictatorship.

In Panama, bribery is a way of life.

Under Torrijos, government officials are paid what would be considered paltry wages. These wages are supplemented by the greased palm.

One person we met in Panama City explained to us nothing gets done unless the right people are paid. Bribery is so common it has become the normal way of doing business.

The system of bribery goes back in the annals of Panamanian history, but the art has been fine-tuned under the present regime.

The commonness of this system alone should make some of our Senators question the feasibility of turning the canal over to the Panamanian government. It is reasonable to expect that graft and bribery would become part and parcel of canal operation.

Flying over the canal, you notice a great number of ships waiting their turn in the locks. When you consider that expeditious passage of cargoes, worth millions of dollars, could result in savings in interest of thousands of dollars a day, the bribery potential of a Panamanian-run canal, is staggering.

So great is the concern, that contrary to popular belief, many South American countries, who rely heavily on the canal for commerce with the rest of the world, don't want us to give up control.

They fear huge toll hikes similar to the ones put into effect on the Suez Canal after nationalization, and a reduction of service and efficiency.

Foreigners also know that Panama is already mortgaged to the hilt with 40 per cent of the gross national product committed to paying off just the interest on their national debt.

Despite verbal assurances by Torrijos that the canal fees wouldn't be raised, observers say, once the canal is in his hands, it will be used as a money machine to keep the country from going bankrupt.

We have found in our youth and all through life that we never appreciate anything so much as when we have to say and pay for it out of our own pocket. When you get something for nothing, you're more likely to abuse or misuse it.

As one realistic Panamanian said to us while visiting his country, "We can't run small things, how can we run an operation the size of the canal?"

If the Panamanians get the canal from the big-hearted U.S., they will run it into the ground, to the detriment of our country, South America, and the rest of the free world. And why not?

NEXT: Who is really behind canal give-away?

Why should we feel guilty?

One of the main reasons liberals want to give up the canal and hand it over to the Panamanians is they feel guilty.

What they have to feel guilty about is beyond comprehension.

Without the United States and its vision 70 years ago in building the canal, Panama would probably be among the most backward of the Central American banana republics.

With the canal, and the income and jobs it generates, Panama has the highest average standard of living in all of Latin America.

From 1960 to 1974, Panama has the highest growth rate, per capita, in the Gross National Product, except, at times, for Brazil. And in Brazil, there is a runaway inflation problem which distorts the figures.

The canal is the largest single employer in the entire country with 10,000 Panamanians working for the

canal company, more than \$102 million goes to Panamanians in payroll, benefits and pensions. Panama is also the recipient of \$342 million in U.S. foreign aid, which is more per capita than any other nation in the entire world.

In addition, the United States has built a transportation system of roads, bridge and airports and railroads, which the Panamanians would never have been able to build on their own.

If only Suffolk County, with its sagging employment and faltering transportation system could get a company like that here to "exploit" us with such an economic transfusion, and fringe benefits.

While most countries would be grateful for such large-scale capital investment, because of a few Communist-instigated demonstrations, liberals say the Panamanians feel

wronged and should have the canal.

We are babes in the woods when it comes to international politics. We subscribe to the liberal theory of "peace at any price". We have been paying this price for two decades. We have allowed ourselves to be laughed at, humiliated and brought to our knees.

We conduct our affairs openly and honestly both internally and externally. In the United States, people enjoy more human rights than any place else on earth.

Because of our power, and might, we have been overcareful to avoid stepping on anyone's toes. This policy has resulted in our being kicked in the shins, stamped upon and spat upon.

We are not looked at as men, but as mice. We are gaining no friends and potentially building enemies in the giveaway of the United States Canal

Zone.

The pressures for turning the canal over are not coming from the Panamanian people. The Panamanians do not feel the necessity to go into more debt to buy the canal.

If their leaders can steal it, by blackmailing the United States government with a threat of a revolution in their country and throughout Central and South America, they will do it. But to buy it honestly and rightfully for its fair market price,, they want no part of it.

Until Panamanians want to ante up and pay for the canal, we should continue to run it, without any feelings of guilt, because we are insuring their future prosperity. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"We're sick of having the highest paid . . ."

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I would like to comment on the recent article "School Board Members Visit Magic Kingdom" as I'm sure all the other taxpayers in the nine districts would also!

There is no reason in the world why school board members cannot hold a conference somewhere in their own state instead of having a super-cali-fra-gel-istic good time on our hard earned money. Our children are on their second year of an austerity budget, whereas they have to do without books, sports and other educational material. Right now our taxes are so high. We're sick of having the highest paid teachers, the highest paid policemen, and the highest paid everything. Maybe this conference trip is legal in the eyes

of the school board, but on the other hand it is morally wrong. There's no reason why we have to pay for such extravaganzas, the school districts are robbing us blind, but what it really comes down to is, out of the six days spent in California, for this conference, four days will be spent at Disneyworld.

After all, you can't see everything at Disneyworld all in one day.

I am really insulted by such gall that the school districts will take away an education from a child and use the money for their own pleasure. And why not?

An About to Boil Taxpayer
Mrs. Linda Paterson
Ridge

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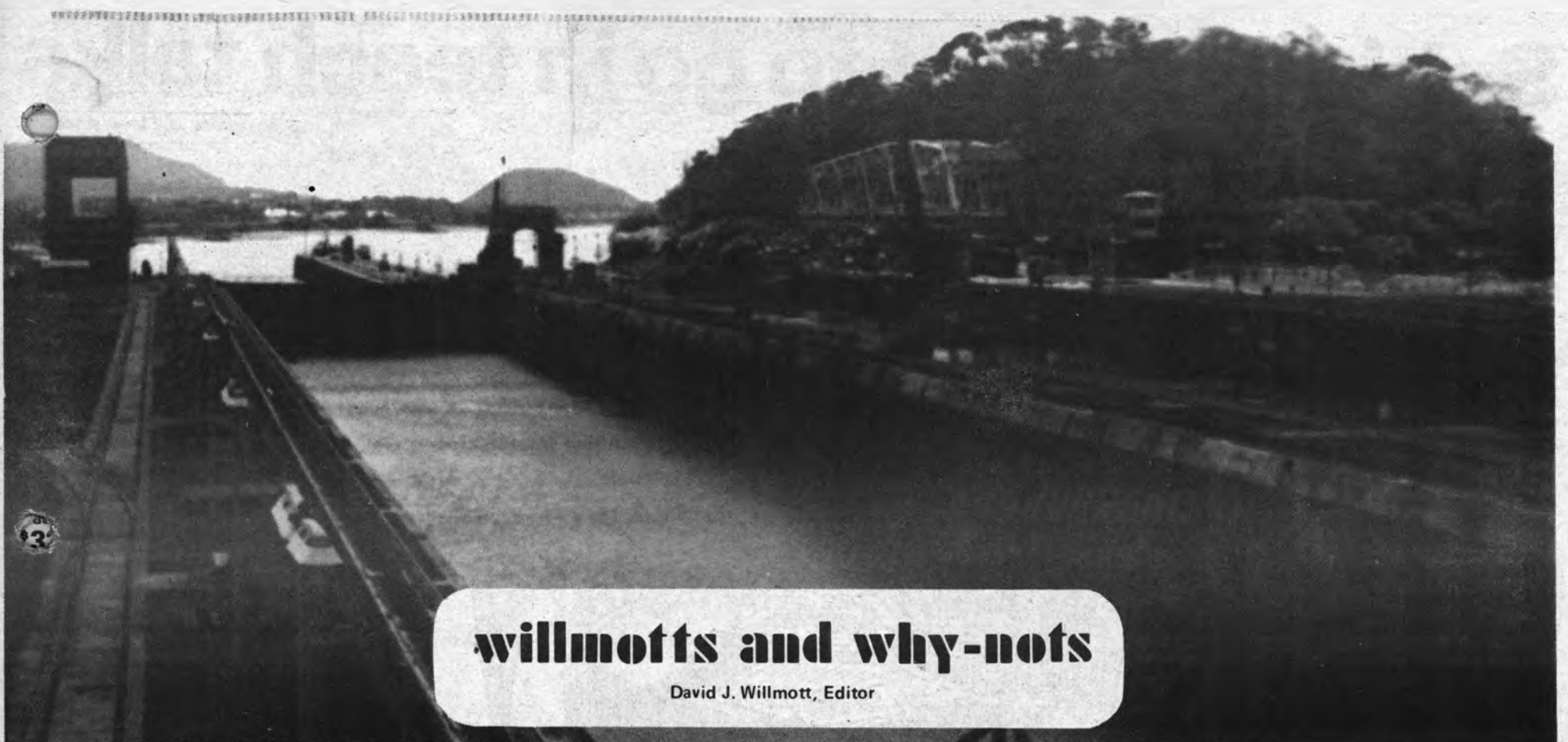
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David J. Willmott, Editor

Who's behind the Canal giveaway?

Driving through Panama, you notice the recent erection of many multi-story buildings and numerous other construction projects that are half completed and have obviously been halted for a period of time.

It is a clue to who is really behind the American giveaway of the canal.

Like Florida, which has undergone a number of land booms, Panama experienced a dynamic building blitz during the early '70's. The boom came to a crash in 1974.

The money behind the construction projects came from American banks in the form of loans made directly to the government and to individual builders.

The big United States banks made the commitments on these loans, when money was plentiful and it appeared that Torrijos had total control over the country and a stable government.

When the recession of 1974-1975 hit, money tightened up and the loans made to Panama became shaky investments. To salvage their own investments, American financiers knew Panama must receive a tremendous infusion of new money. Their lobbyists began pushing for a treaty.

Besides giving our canal to Panama

as a \$16 billion gift, the treaties call for giving the Panamanian government millions in foreign aid plus outright payments in repentance for the sin of creating their country and the canal.

With this giveaway, the big American banks, and those controlling families, once again could be bailed out of a shaky financial disaster at a handsome profit.

Besides greedy capitalists, it is the Communists who would have the most to gain from a Panamanian takeover of the canal. Don't think Castro and the Kremlin are on the sidelines, sitting on their hands.

While the proponents of the treaty say the giveaway will avoid a revolution, giving title to the Panamanian dictator Torrijos just about guarantees a new insurrection, fired by the Communists.

To most Panamanians, there is already a built-in friction with the canal's operation because salaries paid to Panamanian workers at the canal are 283 per cent more than what their countrymen earn in similar jobs. Because of the discrepancy, there is a distinct caste system which creates resentment and tension. Those feelings will continue to build whoever runs the canal.

In addition, the well-manicured residential areas and services in the canal zone merely point up more dramatically the hovels in which many of the poor in Panama have to live.

The Americans didn't create the slums, it was the local elite -- financial barons and military men -- who have raped the country for their own needs through the years.

Because of the poverty, many Panamanians, even those as young as five and six, gamble what little they have, hoping to win big. It is almost a national disease. We attended a sporting event and we saw little ones with bare feet and torn clothing betting their dollars on the outcome.

In addition, Torrijos, the strong man, has squelched freedoms we Americans take for granted and fear is rampant because of the presence of his private storm troopers throughout the countryside.

Such conditions make Panama fertile ground for revolution.

When he first seized power, Torrijos spent money wildly in creating a welfare state, to keep the poorer parts of the population appeased.

Taking a cue from Nelson Rockefeller, New York's high spending governor, Torrijos adopted a philosophy of spend and tax and spend and borrow. Rockefeller even sent down a team of experts to show the dictator how to run up a multi-billion dollar national debt, which takes away 37 cents of every Panamanian tax dollar.

The downturn of the economy, however, has caused Torrijos to lose his appeal among the masses.

Besides forcing the dictator to pare away many of the welfare programs, the taxes have skyrocketed to support those that do remain.

Because his popular appeal is wearing thin, Torrijos has also tried to cozy up to Cuba to prevent Castro from exporting revolution to Panama.

Torrijos has hailed Castro as an "example and a light" that should be followed elsewhere and known and open Communists occupy high positions in the dictator's regime.

Whether the Communists cause a revolution or keep Torrijos under their thumb, through a threat of overthrow, is not the issue. Either way, the Caribbean will become as much a Communist lake as the Black Sea in the USSR.

From a military standpoint, the real possibility of Panama coming under the hammer and sickle is of grave concern. We already have missile aimed at our front door from Cuba; we don't need the same in our backdoor from Panama.

The mere fact that Panama, if it owns the canal, will have a two-tier system of minimum wage, separated solely by a boulevard for the same jobs, will cause a revolution on its own.

If a revolution does not come, it will force a devastating rate of inflation that will topple this perilous economy.

According to Panamanians, Torrijos himself is running so scared, he has had a home built in Spain and if the revolution comes, they expect him to flee Panama with as much of the treasury as he can remove.

This is what we learned during a personal visit to Panama. We didn't take the official tours or go to the embassies to be guided by what the bureaucrats wanted us to see. We talked to the people and got a feel for the country from the grassroots.

More than ever, we feel a Panama Canal giveaway is a mistake, and now is the time to let our representatives know, before their final vote on the issue, now scheduled for April 18. If enough pressure is brought to bear, their minds can be changed. And why not?

NEXT: You can still stop treaty

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Mastic/Moriches
Patchogue
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Sayville
Ronkonkoma

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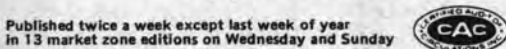
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You can still swing the canal outcome

Although a survey showed 76 per cent of the United States citizens opposed the giveaway of the U.S. Canal to Panama, the Senate passed the neutrality treaty, the first of two. They did so with only one vote to spare.

All stops had been pulled out by President Carter. Insiders claim the arm twisting and deals made by Carter were so outlandish that Carter will not be able to get another piece of favored legislation passed for at least a year.

The more important of the two treaties will come up for a vote on Tuesday. This treaty deals with the mechanics for transferring your vested interest in the U.S. Canal Company to a foreign dictator, Gen. Omar Torrijos.

Torrijos is an outspoken advocate of Cuban-styled Communism and an announced friend of Fidel Castro.

This treaty turns over your title to your land, which the U.S. bought fair and square. It also turns over the U.S. of America's right to use the canal we built through the investment of your tax dollars, ingenuity and manpower. The U.S. will become just another user of this canal, subject to the dictates and whims of a military dictatorship.

Additionally, it provides for the giving away of over a billion dollars of your tax money in repentance for having brought to the country of

Panama the highest standard of living, the lowest mortality rate and the highest literacy rate in all of Central and South America.

The giveaway of this valuable U.S. owned and operated asset will tremendously weaken our defense position, cause an acceleration in the prices of imported goods and also make the U.S. exports less competitive in the Far East.

The only benefit to the U.S. that will be derived from the passage of this blatant give away will be the bailing out of a few large U.S. banks who greedily loaned funds to Torrijos and now stand a great risk of not being paid back, unless the Senate of the U.S. can be blackmailed into giving up her citizens' right and interest in the canal.

You can still stop this injustice by sending a public opinion message or a mail-gram to our New York State Senators and to Senators who are still wavering on this issue. To do so, merely pick up your telephone, call Western Union, toll free, at (800) 257-2211 and dictate your message. A 15 word personal opinion message costs \$2. A 100 word mail-gram costs \$2.95. Both will be received in time to be counted.

The address is U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 020510.

While New York's Senators, Jacob Javits and Daniel P. Moynihan, have already firmly backed the treaties,

among the Senators who appear to be wavering, are Republicans Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, Robert Packwood of Oregon, John Heinz of Pennsylvania and Democrats Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, Sam Nunn of Georgia, Paul Hatfield of Montana and Howard Cannon of Nevada.

Even Tennessee Senator Howard Baker, the Senate Minority Leader and supporter of the canal up to now, may be shifting.

He feels the White House double-crossed the Senate and the people of the United States. Carter told the Senate and the people one story and was telling Torrijos another. Many Senators voted yes on the treaty solely because they believed the reservations and amendments which were to be attached to the treaty, would be valid.

One of these dealt with the right and the ability of the U.S. government to keep the canal open in time of war or other disputes, even after the year 2000, when the transition has been completed.

After the vote was over, Torrijos let Carter know that he found this among other reservations and amendments unacceptable. Carter indicated he is in favor of eliminating the amendment and sticking with the provisions of the treaty before debate by the Senate.

As we have pointed out in the

preceding editorials, there is no rhyme or reason for you as an American citizen or for our government to give up any of our interests in the canal.

Placing the ownership and the operation of the canal in the hands of a military dictator, who leans strongly towards Communism, makes us the laughing stock of the entire world. As Panama is already talking about raising rates by as much as 400 per cent on freight that moves through the canal. We know we will be paying more for goods that we buy from abroad, and merchandise produced here in the U.S. will be less competitive because of the high transportation costs.

There is no strong, unanimous movement throughout Panama for the U.S. to get out. Instead there is but a handful of Communist inspired radicals led by Torrijos demanding that the goose that laid the golden egg be killed.

You can let Jimmy Carter and the liberals of the Senate get away with this giveaway unabated or you can do your part as a citizen and send a mailgram off immediately that will show the Senate that you are knowledgeable, concerned, and involved. And that you want your canal to remain American. Do it now! And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'I stand with the conviction that it is past time!'

Dear Sir:

Little did I suspect almost 36 years ago, as our convoy made its unforgettable passage through the Panama Canal en route to a great adventure, that some day I would sympathize with Panamanian national pride and support the Panama-for-the-Panamanians principle. That is my position. Around the turn of the century seems to be a reasonable target date for transfer of the Canal to the natives. By that time many thorny problems should be worked out.

The following are comments on several statements in your article: You ask, "Would you be willing to give up East Hampton . . . to some foreign country . . .?" Not without a struggle. By the same token, I can understand why Panamanians hope to reclaim

'Keep what rightfully belongs to us.'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Just read your editorial on the Panama Canal issue. (April 5, 1978). I agree with everything you said. Just hope it is in time to influence the extra two votes needed in the second round to defeat this giveaway. An all out effort now may save our canal and avoid paying the extra costs in blood and treasure later on.

The Panama Canal is our property and

that "strip 50 miles long and 10 miles wide" for themselves.

"Panama . . . only came into existence through the aid (connivance) would be a better word) of our . . . government."

"In 1903 the United States government made a deal with the revolutionaries (Monsieur Bunau-Varilla?) of what is now Panama . . ." A shady deal if there ever was one. Nowadays that sort of politics would be called interfering with the internal affairs of a friendly nation.

"Article II . . . grants to the United States in perpetuity . . . control of this zone . . ." Let us consider the term "in perpetuity." Forever is a long time. What person in his right mind would demand, or agree to, such an arrogant and utterly ridiculous condition? Has there ever been anything quite like it?

essential to our national defense and our representatives should bow to the will of the people (polls show that 73 per cent of our citizens are for retaining the canal) and see to it that we keep what rightfully belongs to us.

Your voice is our voice in this battle and keep on making it strong. L-4Z

Sincerely,
Arthur Hoffman

'Oops!'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Perhaps you could explain how you divide \$16 billion by the population of the United States to obtain \$8,000 per person. After all, the population of the United States (as an independent nation) has always been greater

than the two million your figures would imply and is now in excess of two hundred million. Oops! L-2Z

Sincerely,
Roger Alan Smith
Setauket

Ordinarily I would agree that a contract should be honored. In this case, I believe that a nation, such as ours, that was founded on puritanical respect for morals and ethics should be ashamed to have had any part in such a deal and would want to disassociate itself from it.

"The United States would possess and exercise (authority within the zone) if it were sovereign . . ." Use of the subjective mood here denotes a condition contrary to fact, which means that the American position in the Canal Zone never has been altogether clear.

"These (original) treaties were signed . . . by the . . . heads of the new revolutionary Panamanian government (and) by every member of the cabinet of (that) government." That is interesting because, according to Archbishop Marcos McGrath of

Panama City, the original 1903 treaty" . . . was written in 12 hours, signed under questionable circumstances, had no Panamanian participation in the drafting or signing of the document and was forced upon the new, unorganized Panamanian government." I wonder which story is authentic.

I suspect that the word "valase" in the quotation by a Panamanian was a printing error and intended to appear as "vayase."

Your April 9 editorial contained several thought-provoking assertions. As my opening paragraph suggested, I am not entirely happy with the current treaties in their present forms, and I hope to see the weaknesses corrected. But I stand with the conviction, formed years ago, that it is past time for a change. L-1Z

Very truly yours,
J. Franklin

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Sunday, April 16, 1978
SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS
PAGE 3

What Long Island needs most

Newsday has just finished publishing a series of articles dealing with where Long Island is at and what are its needs.

Although they did an excellent job of cataloguing our assets and liabilities, they seem to have missed the main point by not emphasizing the single most important problem.

Long Islanders need to be able to live on the income they are earning. They need more room between the amount of money they take home and the cost of survival.

This is the single most important need all Long Islanders have whether they be rich or poor, or in the middle class.

Many of the assets that provide the quality of Long Island life have been acquired at a terrible cost in taxation.

And because of the oppressive taxes, the highest in the nation, people have little time or energy left over to enjoy that life.

Almost all Long Island families are dependent upon two incomes to survive. This itself is one of the keys to unemployment. As more members of the family are forced to take jobs and second jobs just to survive, they eliminate these jobs from the open market.

Both husband and wife must work and very often the second income is used solely to pay the tax liabilities levied because of excessive spending by school districts, towns, county and state government.

Property taxes alone on Long Island exceed the entire mortgage and insurance payments made on a

similar size house in other parts of the country.

Sales taxes in many states are half what they are in New York and are collected on only a fraction of the merchandise taxed here.

New York State has the highest state income tax in the nation. Its corporate taxes also exceed the vast majority of other states. The cost of utilities, fuel and other necessities in New York are again the highest in the nation.

Because of these taxes and the built-in cost of necessities, it is virtually impossible for the average person to survive on a single income and live on Long Island.

Much of the debt incurred by our local and state governments is long-term and cannot be changed.

The thrust of the Newsday articles was that the creation of more projects could somehow solve our problems. We fail to comprehend this point. The public is currently so strapped they can't pay, through taxes, what the government has already bought. How can more buying reduce this burden? We fear that Newsday with all its research and creative writing came to the same conclusion bureaucrats have for years. Out of frustration, they decided the best way to solve the problems was to throw more money at them. If you can't beat them, they reasoned, join them.

Encourage more projects and more debt and if you get enough into hock, the federal government can be counted on to bail you out. That's what is going on in New York City, isn't it? And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Last words on board trips



Pro

Dear Mr. Willmott,

For the last three weeks I have had to listen to the misinformation and misconceptions you have printed in your "newspaper" concerning the recent National School Boards Convention in Anaheim. I hope that in the interest of justice you will print this letter and let the people of Middle Island read the truth (or if you prefer, at least the other side of the story). I have had to put up with two front page stories and an editorial, so I hope that you will have the courtesy of printing this entire letter.

Last year at this time I made my decision to run for the Middle Island Board of Education. Although my children were still many years away from entering school, I decided that I was ready to make a commitment for the sake of my children and all the rest of the children in the district. That seems to be a point which you have missed throughout the years. There are no hidden benefits derived from being a board member except the satisfaction that you are doing it "for the kids." Now I am told that a trip to Disneyland is my reward and I didn't even know about it. I would like to set the record straight.

After being on the board for ten months and attending every single meeting (in order that I might be involved in each issue), I was made aware of an opportunity to learn how to be a more effective and informed board member. Four days of instruction in areas important to every school district. Because of the fact that the National School Boards Association chose Anaheim as the site, your newspaper began its campaign to discredit school boards. All board members who have tried to improve their skills have been called "dishonest" and "immoral". You have created new forms of journalism - slander by innuendo and guilt by location, without ever bothering to learn the facts or distinguish the good from the bad board members.

At the March 30th meeting of the school board, two sides to the story were told. As has become your custom, quotes were taken out of context and other important statements were completely ignored. The resulting story was so biased (right down to the pictures of the Mickey Mouse ears) that it

hardly represented the truth of what really happened. At that meeting, the set-up of the convention was explained and reasons were given why one person could not represent the entire district. At any given time twenty concurrent clinics are being given. If every member of the board went, we would still miss more than half of them. I am not suggesting that this be done, but the fact remains that even with six people attending, we had to set priorities as to what was the most relevant issues to our district. Was any of this mentioned in your paper? From your headlines you would never know we went to an educational meeting (School Board Members Visit Magic Kingdom). You make it sound as if the trip was planned to confer with Mickey Mouse and that my accommodations were in Disneyland Castle. Are you interested in the truth?

I spent on the average eight hours a day at meetings and took 27 pages of notes on educational, financial and philosophical issues of concern to the district. I am in the process of organizing these notes for distribution to the rest of the board. I attended clinics on "Cost-cutting ideas", "Strategies for passing budgets", "Public Relations", "Current Legislation" and many, many others. For all this I received the "reward" of being able to pay my way into Disneyland at a special group rate given to school board members for one night only (Three Middle Island representatives did not even use this "benefit").

Despite your constant ridicule the trip was a success for me. I learned a great deal. For example, in the field of public relations, I

learned among other that good relations with the press are a necessity. Therefore, I am willingly offering any amount of time to sit down and discuss district issues with you.

Other items of importance I learned about were methods for saving large sums of money. If these are adaptable to local conditions, the convention will have paid for itself hundreds of times over.

And what was the price of this "extravaganza"? Approximately one dime per family per year. That is a small price to pay if we can improve the financial and educational situation in our district. Since past history shows that you have no interest in the educational progress of our district, I am enclosing a dime refund.

William J. Rostron
Middle Island Board of Education

Con

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Since your article appeared in Suffolk Life about Donald Duck and School Boards and you published my letter supporting your views, as a school board member, I have received much support from the community on this matter. One of these supporting groups is the Mastic Taxpayers Assn, whose president, James O. Kaiser, supports my stand on this matter and is working with me on this letter.

We strongly feel that this source of irritation to the taxpayer should be eliminated. Many people in this community and in many other communities feel that a

Reforms urged

We request that the State Legislature adopt the following resolutions.

1. That a school district doing business under an austerity budget be denied any convention expenses for board members and administrators.
2. That any school district with a consistently rising tax rate be restricted in sums appropriated for conventions.
3. That any school trustee or administrator who attends an educational convention be required to make public a full and complete report of this convention and that on a convention outside the limits of the State of New York, no more than two board members shall attend at one time from any one school district.
4. That board members who combine convention travel and personal travel together shall not be compensated for their expenses.

school board member should be above reproach. We, who are supposed to be leaders of today, are looked up to by our children, who will be the leaders of tomorrow and in no way should we cloud and distort their outlook and our images.

It's true that a school board member does give more time to the community than does the average citizen, but in most communities there is a volunteer fire department, volunteer ambulance and volunteer police, and these groups give as much to the people as a school board member does, and under much worse conditions, yet they do not receive expenses or any type of grants. In fact, on an hour to hour basis these groups probably give far more time to the community than a school board member. In many of our schools we ask for volunteers from the senior citizens and the mothers on the pretense of saving money and keeping taxes down. How dare we ask these good people for their time for free, while we expect to be compensated for our time.

It may be argued by some board members that the conventions are educational. I believe that we have enough institutions of higher learning within the State of New York, so we do not have to travel, in fact, many school districts have these institutions within a short distance of the school district and they offer many courses that will assist a board member in doing his job well.

In view of the fact that we feel some action must be taken, we have sent copies of the resolutions to State Senator Ken LaValle, Assemblyman Perry Duryea and Commissioner of Education.

John G. Linehan
Member, Wm. Floyd Bd. of Ed.

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Legalize two-family housing

Housing for newly marrieds and for senior citizens on limited incomes is an enormous problem here on Long Island. A decent two bedroom apartment in one of the newer complexes generally rents from \$275 to \$400 per month.

An alternative, a mobile home, costs those who can buy and pay for them, \$10,000 to \$20,000 in cash and between \$90 and \$200 per month for rent, utilities and insurance.

For people on fixed or limited incomes, it means moving off Long Island or entering into an illegal arrangement to share a house with someone else.

Two families, living in a home in a non-residential area are considered illegal. Both landlords and renters are breaking the law and subjecting themselves to fines and imprisonment.

The argument against two family houses is that they are placing twice the usual burden on the sewage, roads, schools and other services.

Therefore, they are not desirable for the good of the community.

Realistically, most homes, currently rented as two family houses, formerly sheltered a family of four to six people. Most people, living in a single house occupied by two families, are without children and, therefore, place no demands on the school system.

The financing of schools in most communities makes up over 50 per cent of the real estate taxes paid by homeowners. On Long Island we have had a tendency to build homes to accommodate families. As the families grow and kids move out on their own, parents are left with much larger homes than are needed.

Our zoning laws force a waste of space, space desperately needed by other older couples, young marrieds and singles, who have not started families.

Single family houses that are owner-occupied but converted to serve the needs of two families are

just as desirable. The owner is on the premises and can carefully select his tenant and monitor their activities to conform with the neighborhood lifestyle.

This arrangement is better than placing hundreds of families in apartment buildings where there is virtually no supervision by owners or anyone else.

All through Long Island we have testimony to the weakness of apartment rentals. Many apartment complexes built during the last decade are already slums because of lack of supervision.

Illegal two family houses are a way of life throughout the county and will continue to become more so as real estate taxes accelerate. People faced with having to sell out for a fraction of a house's worth or break the law by renting part of the house, will choose to become a lawbreaker.

Suffolk Life is well aware of the number of illegal two family homes in existence because of our saturation

delivery system. Hardly a day goes by we do not receive a call asking for delivery of our paper.

When we check our records, we find a delivery is already being made to the house. On one particular route, we counted 127 front doors. On that same route today, we are delivering 176 copies of Suffolk Life and there isn't one duplicate.

Our town and zoning boards must face this question head on. It is obvious there is little they can do to reduce real estate taxes so, therefore, they must introduce a way people can afford to remain in their homes.

Legal conversion of single family dwellings into owner-occupied multi-family residences is a solution and an answer to the housing shortage on Long Island. It's one that makes sense from homeowners, renters, and from the government's standpoint. Let's get on with it! And why not?

'Here is a basic proposal for all'

Dear Editor:

New York State's whole economy, as well as that of New York City, has begun to scream for attention, seemingly on deaf ears.

The East End of Long Island presents a particularly serious cause for concern. Very few young people seem interested in settling here. Starting in business or finding work in the East End becomes increasingly difficult. While the East End needs industry, a recent national study placed New York State dead last in the country as an environment which attracts industry. It is New York's miserable tax structure which is to blame. Realistic, though unfortunately harsh measures are needed. And where to begin is all too obvious.

Perhaps the greatest amount of public spending of the money which fewer and fewer people are working to earn goes to welfare. New York State, while consistently alienating revenue-producing industry, hands out the most attractive welfare program in the nation. All parts of New York - and the East End is no exception - supports thousands of families which have been welfare recipients for literally generations. And this continuity thrives in a welfare system which encourages welfare-mother fertility. While job-producing business abandons N.Y.'s hostile commercial climate (Pan American Airways is the latest casualty), welfare seekers pour in, immune from any residence requirement whatsoever. This welfare-in, industry-out revolving door already has brought New York City to its knees, and New York State, and our East End are not far behind. Yet we still call ourselves the "Empire State".

Here is a basic proposal for all to consider: The bureaucrats who run the welfare system - the caseworkers, supervisors, etc. - must begin to work on a new system of progressive disenrollment of welfare recipients. In such a system, it will become part of the welfare employee's obligation, in a given period of time, to remove from the welfare rolls certain numbers of recipients from certain non-discriminatory categories. If a particular welfare employee cannot reach a certain amount of disenrollments, that employee ought to be replaced by someone who can. Insensitive though this may appear, the disaster we approach is far worse. More and more of the community must begin to produce where they are needed, rather than to receive from the fewer and fewer persons who are available to provide. (L-2A)

Gregory J. Blass
Jamesport

Readers' Opinion

Post mortem on canal issue

Dear Dave:

Beautiful Canal coverage you did. I called you today, got Rick, and told him I had sent the following: "Sixty-five, ex-Navy, six canal transits 1930's, town office 1960, oppose treaty jeopardizing control, vote no". to Senator Randolph (Jesse Helms said he was wavering), Paul Hatfield (Montana) Howard Cannon (Nevada). Then I decided to send also to the other six in your editorial; Brooke, Packwood, Heinz, DeConcini, Nunn and Baker (many drops of water, many grains of sand, make a mighty ocean and a mighty land - someone once said). So who knows what when the score is tied? A straw broke a camel's back. Long shots sometimes win. Acquisition of the canal was as moral and legal as the rest of USA turf, rocks and water. The same dumb logic being used, if used on Alaska, Virgin Islands, Northwest Territory, Texas, Louisiana Territory etc. ad infinitum, to give 'hem back, would only solve our real-estate tax-problems - we'd have no taxable land left! I'd still defend the rights for Liberals to open their big fat mouths, so long as I can open mine. (L-4A)

Sincerely,
Arthur McComb
Ronkonkoma

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I read with a great deal of interest your article "Who's behind the Canal giveaway". We worry about petty thievery when we permit outrageous giveaways of our tax money. No wonder the general public has so little confidence in our public officials.

A prediction could and should be made by you that if the sale goes through, this present generation will live to regret it and probably pay not alone with money, but undoubtedly with the lives of our people.

Too bad some of our own needy people can't get at least a little bit of this free money from the President and his henchmen.

If we ordinary citizens wanted to get something that would help us and we tried what the government is doing, we would wind up in jail.

It has often been said that the "voter" forgets quickly. Let us hope they don't this time.

By the way, did you hear on the news that Carter may not seek a second term? Let's hope not. (L-5A)

Very truly yours,
Salvador J. Rametta
A Voting Senior Citizen
Ridge

Dear Dave:

You are to be commended for your editorials and educational articles on the Panama Canal and Carter's infamous giveaway.

If enough people express their opinion about not giving the Panama Canal away, perhaps we can still avoid a war later when we most certainly will have to use our children and grandchildren to recapture the Canal again with paratroopers, our Marines, our infantry, our Navy and our Air Force.

Keep up the good work and with best regards. (L-3A)

Sincerely yours,
Harold R. Hafner
Sound Beach

'I always get my paper'

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to tell you that no matter what the weather is, I always get my paper. My dog, "Dino", is a good delivery dog. (L-6A)

Sincerely,
Lorraine Horton

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Learning a lesson from the canal issue

It's history now. The United States Senate disregarded ¾ of the American public's wishes and gave the canal away.

How this vote was mustered is a lesson on how our government should not operate. Senators from Maine to California did not vote on the merits of the Panama Canal issue. They voted because of blatant blackmail and bribery by the President of the United States. In gaining the support he needed, he used the same tactics American corporations have been condemned for using in dealing with foreign governments.

If you buy my package on the canal, I will give you a reward of a chairmanship or passage of a pet bill or whatever the price was needed. If you don't vote the way I want you to, I will cut off aid to your state or see that any bill you're associated with goes up in flames.

Does it make any difference if money passes hands? It's still blackmail and bribery. No wonder Torrijos had the audacity to stand up in Panama upon the passage of the treaty and say if the Senate hadn't capitulated, they were going to take the canal the next day by force.

Torrijos' statement gives further credence to the opponent's argument



against the Panamanians taking over, because of the instability of the government.

The Senate and the House now must pass joint legislation enacting the transfer of the canal from the U.S. to Panama.

Appropriations will also be voted on to send your tax dollars taken from your salary to pay retribution to the Panamanian government for our having enabled them to have achieved the highest standard of living in Central and South America.

Your voice was not heard by the Senate; it could be by your Congressman.

Write to him now, and demand that not one penny of your tax dollars be used to aid Panama. We must show Torrijos that his words holding the U.S. people in such contempt will cost him dearly. And why not?

When the cock crows, don't fight

I attended a Riverhead Town Board meeting last Tuesday evening. It was an emotional meeting dealing with the harboring of domestic animals. It was good to see the meeting room

packed and to hear people from all walks of life espousing their viewpoints and taking part in their government.

It was disturbing, though, as the law being proposed would further reduce the resident's right to use his property as he desires.

About 4:30 am the next morning, I heard a cock crow. He belongs to a neighbor of mine. He has a handful of chickens and a raucous rooster. Under the property ordinance, he would be forbidden to keep these birds.

My neighbor is an immigrant from the old world. He keeps his yard in better condition than I keep mine. He takes immense pride not only in the appearance of his property but in his ability to make things grow.

In many ways, he has re-created, in his backyard, a little bit of Greece, his native country. There is no doubt that the rooster gets up a heck of a lot earlier than I do and he makes a racket.

I could get myself all bent out of

shape about it, but damn it, he has a right to use the property he bought and pays taxes on for his own use. I am sure he gets a lot of pleasure out of his chickens and I don't feel I have a right as his neighbor to complain.

By the same token, I think he feels the same about me. When my kids are having a ballgame alongside of his house, they make a racket, far more than his rooster. As a good neighbor, he puts up with this for I am using my property for the purpose I bought it.

There will come a day when my kids will be making too much noise or his rooster will crow more than I can stand. I am sure when this happens, we will go to each other and find the solution or learn to live with the problem.

Although we are not good friends, we are good neighbors. We respect each other's rights and responsibilities. Couldn't most of the issues a town board must face be solved by individuals communicating and respecting each other? And why not?

Why citizens can't beat Big Brother government

Big Brother, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, arbitrarily and conspicuously is pushing a subsidized housing program down the throats of Port Jefferson Station homeowners.

The homeowners have for 18 months pooled their meager resources and waged a gallant fight against this agency. Subsidized housing has had a track record of turning responsible, respectable areas into instant slums.

It places on the non-subsidized homeowners a high burden of taxation to support the cost of the services, demanded by those who are not paying the bills.

The homeowners were rapidly running out of funds and asked the town to join in their fight. The town turned them down. Reluctantly, with their funds exhausted, the homeowners in Port Jefferson Station had to give up fighting for their rights.

This is wrong. But Big Brother has the cards stacked in his favor.

Even if the homeowners had won

the fight, they still would have lost because there is no provision in the law for the mandatory payment of legal costs by the government when they lose a court action.

The government is able to use the money taken from our taxes to impose their will upon us without the people having the ability to oppose. The little people, the individuals, who are the citizens of the U.S. should have the same right as the government.

There is only one way this can be achieved. When people successfully oppose the government in a lawsuit, they should be reimbursed for the legal costs. This is only fair, equitable and democratic.

The painful loss of the Port Jefferson Station citizens' rights on this issue should start a band wagon rolling for legislation mandating the government to pay the legal costs of a successful citizens' legal actions against the encroachment of Big Brother. And why not?

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Early out, answer to high school cost

Our traditional 12 year school system is a costly albatross. It is set up to serve the mean including those with a lack of natural ability or normal I.Q.'s that have a difficult time keeping up and progressing with their peers.

Those with an above average intelligence often are bored by being held back. They do not progress faster than the average in their age group. This problem starts in kindergarten and is compounded through years.

of their freshman year, have completed most of their studies through the normal sophomore year.

By the end of the junior year, they have completed the requisites for a high school education and spend their senior year taking electives or flitting away this year of their life in busy work.

Keeping every student in school for 12 years is a waste of taxpayers' money. Early on in a student's academic career, potentials for learning can be determined.

Those who have limited academic abilities should be provided with career and vocational courses, rather than advanced academic subjects. Those, who possess above normal academic skills, should be allowed to proceed at their own speed, regardless of their age, to their rapid conclusion within the educational curriculum.

A system of this nature will enable a district to bring all students to fulfillment and cut the number of years in school for some students. The fewer years a student spends in school, the lower the cost of education is to the taxpayers.

Career and vocational students could go on to BOCES type trade schools taking courses enhancing their skills in their chosen fields.

Students academically inclined should be able to go on to community colleges where they can achieve up to two years of normal college education before having to go on to expensive four year universities.

It makes little sense to hold a student captive in a classroom for 12 years just to meet the norm of education.

It's a waste of taxpayers' investment, teachers' abilities and students' precious time. Let's change the system. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Most public schools are reluctant to keep a student back more than one year as they may develop emotionally faster than the students who are on par. Many of these students are passed from grade to grade, never having learned the basics. When they finally reach their senior year they receive a diploma or certificate that in today's world is nothing more than a piece of paper attesting to attendance.

Bright students, on the other hand, seldom have their potential challenged. To aid this group, some school systems offer, starting in the seventh grade, an enrichment program.

Students, who qualify, start taking high school courses. If they are successful in the program, by the end

Are Blues going the way of tuna?

Blue fish have been the staple of the recreational fishing industry on Long Island for years.

Blues inhabit the Long Island Sound, most bays, and the Atlantic Ocean. While most sportsmen prefer to catch more exotic fish, blue fish have always been the species to fall back on to make fishing worthwhile. This may not continue to be the case.

With the passage of the 200 mile limit and restrictions placed on tuna, the boats that formerly sought the tuna are now turning their eyes towards blues. A market has developed in Japan and suddenly in Europe for these fish.

Purse seining is the method used for tuna and it is easily adaptable for blue fish. A purse seiner drops his net, circles the school of fish, closes the bottom of the net and draws it to the boat. The entire school of fish is captured and wiped out.

This effective method of fishing tuna contributed to their demise.

Tuna are now regulated and hopefully the fish can be brought back if purse seining is not restricted. Blue fish which are still abundant, will quite likely become a thing of the past. Unfortunately, it takes over one year to get a species regulated and by this time the fishery for blues may be ruined.

We urge everyone involved in fishing, from consumer to fisherman to write to the Mid-Atlantic Regulation Fishery Council and the House Merchant Marine Fishery Commission, which is holding hearings on the amendments to the fishery acts. They will be discussing the blue fishing issue during May's meetings. The address is: **Mid-Atlantic Regulation Fishery Council Federal Office Building New Street Dover, Delaware, 19901**

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'I was shocked of your remarks'

Dear Editor:

I have been a reader of your newspaper since you first started publication and I have always agreed with your editorials. However, in your edition dated March 15, 1978, the fact emerged that you are in favor of hunting; possibly even a hunter yourself!

I was shocked at your remarks to Mr. Anthony Margraf, who wrote to you regarding the suffering of animals at the hands of hunters.

Your implication that hunters help the deer population by killing off those deer that would otherwise starve or be killed by packs of wild dogs, etc., is entirely untrue!

The real fact is that hunters do not aim for the weak and smallest deer. They look for the biggest and strongest; the ones with the most points on their antlers, and the unscarred beautifully furred ones. Otherwise they couldn't brag about their great conquests to all their hunting buddies! Therefore, the deer pack is actually weakened by the hunters when in reality, nature would do this job the right way.

The definition of a hunter is a man who enjoys killing animals. In my opinion, and that of many other humanitarians, these men are trying to prove their manhood by killing a defenseless animal. Unfortunately, they only succeed in proving that they are not even close to being real men at all. A real man does not get enjoyment from killing or maiming a beautiful animal. A real man, like Mr. Margraf, is concerned for our wildlife and therefore will try to protect it, not destroy it.

Needless to say, my opinion of you has changed from one of admiration to disgust!
Carolyn Buckley Bohemia

Ed. Note: Herds of deer must be thinned out regularly or the deer become weakened and subject to disease. When deer hunting first was renewed on L.I., the average weight of a deer was 87 lbs. Within 2 seasons, the average had gone up to 120 lbs. Before you commit yourself to a position on hunting, read the Conservation Dept. study.

'Your paper has done a service'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I loved your editorial about the school board trips to Anaheim, California. You certainly hit the nail on the head.

One reason why many taxpayers don't complain about these trips is that they don't know about them. They are arranged in the executive sessions so that the people are unaware of them. These school board members know very well how the people

would react if this subject, and many others too, were brought out in the open. Therefore, they ignore the Open Meetings Law and discuss these explosive items in secret. Your paper has done a service in bringing out this situation.
**Sincerely,
Jacqueline Keane
Sayville**

Good news from Ron Parr

Happily Ron Parr announced last Wednesday, he is applying for a license to reopen Parr Meadows on June 15th. He said come hell or high water, he'll do his damndest to open this track with, or without the banks' cooperation on June 15th.

Parr Meadows has faced just about every obstacle conceivable from planning to opening last year. Parr opened the track, under-financed and without the cooperation of town, county and state government.

Miraculously, the track stayed open through the middle of September when the banks forced its closing.

During the last six months, Parr has been frantically attempting to persuade banks to stop acting like vultures because the corpse was not dead. He has acted as a liaison between these institutions, encouraging them to reach an understanding that would allow the track to reopen and provide a solid, legitimate means of

entertainment and a vehicle for employment for the residents of the community.

In 1978 the official attitude towards Parr Meadows is different than that in 1977. Parr is now receiving support from the official community from the town to the state level. They have come to realize Parr would be and should be a substantial employer and a lucrative taxpayer.

With your help and the support of the community at large, Parr Meadows should be able to open and be successful during the 1978 season.

Attendance of as little as 3,500 people per night will bring the track into the black enabling Parr to pay off obligations and debts.

We wish Parr success in his reopening and stand ready and willing, as we are sure most Suffolk residents are, to do what we can to make the 1978 season a successful one. And why not?

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