

## The Primary That Wasn't

Anthony Prudenti, Suffolk County Republican leader, unhappily remarked that on Primary Day, by 11 a.m. he already had had more than 65 calls from angry Republicans demanding to know why they had been disenfranchised and could not vote for the Republican Presidential nominee of their choice.

Tony tried to explain that he had attempted to at least have a primary here in Suffolk County. He wanted to either have delegates run specifically for a candidate or have the candidates' names entered on the ballot. He was blocked by the State Committee and reports he is unhappy about it.

Why should Suffolk Republicans be

denied the right to express their preference? he asked. Why should New York State's delegation go to the convention uncommitted against the will of the public? Good questions from a good political leader. The reasoning behind it on the state level, of course, is that with New York's block of delegates being so large, members are in a prime bargaining position. This is fine for the state leaders, but it does nothing to help build an image of the Republican Party as a party of the people. Prudenti promises he will lead a fight to open up all future primaries to popular choice by the people.

And why not?

## Why Peconic County?

The Peconic County concept has generated a tremendous amount of rhetoric without answering the very basic question of why have a Peconic County.

The idea for Peconic County came out of politics and a desire to hold down taxes in the early '60s. Fundamentally, the reason for Peconic County is the diverse differences between Eastern and Western Suffolk.

Eastern Suffolk's economy is concerned with agriculture, fishing and tourist industries. These people choose to live on the East End because of the quieter, more sedate lifestyle. Western Suffolk basically is an urbanized suburbia whose people's problems mostly deal with employment, commuting and social development.

Founders of the Peconic County movement rightly envisioned the rapid development of the West End and a stranglehold by West End powerbrokers over assets of the East End. The movement was held down for a number of years by former Assemblyman Perry Duryea's quest for the governorship. For some reason we have never been able to figure out, he and his advisors felt he needed the whole of Suffolk County as a base.

Since Duryea's demise, the movement has again picked up

steam, particularly now that population requirements which could have necessitated a constitutional change have been met. In recent weeks, Anthony Noto, presiding officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, has used strong arm tactics which have aroused even the most complacent. His shameless display of raw power has given us a graphic example of power politics at its worst.

Proponents of Peconic County are in reality proponents of limiting county government. They feel they can do without most of the agencies and commissions that currently abound in Suffolk County. Most services being provided by the county already are either provided by the towns or the state governments. These duplications are a waste of manpower and money. They impose additional regulations on people who want to be free to choose their own destiny.

A comparison has been made with a number of upstate counties of similar size to the proposed Peconic County. This conclusively indicates that in both theory and practice, a county government could be established. It would be more economical, more related to the real needs of the citizens of the Peconic area. These counties prove the old adage, the smaller the government, the better.

According to John Behan, current assemblyman from this district, there is no need for a home rule message from all 10 towns. A precedent was set in establishing Bronx County in 1914. This was the last county to be established in the State of New York. The Legislature at that time did not require a home rule message. In fact, it did not even require a referendum giving the people affected an opportunity to express their opinions.

The idea of Peconic County was alien 10 years ago to most western towns. These towns, having been hurt by the explosive growth of county government and their lack of input and representation on the Legislature, today themselves, are seriously considering creation of counties. Brookhaven should have long ago become a county. It is the second largest town in the state, only superceded by a county in the adirondacks that contains vast wilderness but little population.

Like the East End, whose people have little in common with either the problems or desires of their West End contemporaries, Brookhaven has the same situation. The Long Island Expressway divides Brookhaven like

the Great Wall of China. The town is so vast and so diversified, people of the Moriches have almost nothing in common, economically or socially, with the people of the Three Village area. Nor do the people of Rocky Point care much about what happens in Patchogue and vice-versa.

Also, with most of the federal grants being awarded to counties, smaller ones would be in a better position to use these federal funds. That would fit the people's needs better than having them awarded at large to a massive governmental entity such as Suffolk.

On April 14, Albany will be taken over by East Enders who will be there to wine and dine and twist arms of the legislators for passage of Peconic County's bill.

We encourage you to join them. If you can't be there in person, send a letter of support or a donation to the committee so they may continue working and publicizing the need for our right to determine our own future.

The address is: Edward A. Sharrets Jr., chairman, "Committee For A New County," Box AAA, East Hampton, N.Y. 11937.

And why not?

## Charity Begins At Home

This past weekend from the pulpits of Long Island's churches and synagogues, parishioners heard a plea to support an increase in welfare grants to Long Island's poor.

The men of the cloth based their appeal on the fact that welfare grants have not been increased during the last few years and therefore, have not kept up with inflation. They heart-rendingly asked how could a mother feed her child on a pittance of \$2.08 per day for food. The county Social Services offices put the figure at closer to \$2.40.

These well-meaning men neglected to mention that currently New York State's total welfare grants are the highest in the nation, 50 percent higher than provided in the average state. These welfare grants attract welfare recipients from all over, not only the county, but the world. These welfare grants have crippled the New York State and Suffolk County taxpayer.

The \$2.08 figure they use is a mythical figure. And though low, let's go by that. Let's multiply it out and see what it looks like in reality. Take \$2.08 times four people in a family, that's \$8.32 per day times seven days is \$58.24 per week. This is increased by at least 25 percent through food stamps, giving a poor family a food buying power of \$72.80 per week. This additionally is supplemented by the

children receiving free breakfasts and lunches at school. This easily brings the food figure close to \$90 per week for a family of four.

Most families we know of, where both the mother and father work, feed their families very well on this kind of money. The welfare recipients also get rent payment, clothing payments, have medical expenses and some other necessities covered. They receive additional grants, in some cases automotive allowances, as well as being able to send the kids to summer camp. There are other niceties we, as workers, cannot afford.

Those of us working have systematically and consistently had our real buying power reduced through inflation as our taxes have gone up. We will not even mention what has happened to our cost of transportation, heating and utilities.

We receive no grants or aid from the federal, state or local governments. We have just had to make do by cutting down and changing our lifestyles. What New York State legislators should be doing is developing a plan to reduce state welfare benefits so they are no higher than the average. Only those who deserve relief the most should receive it -- the taxpayers.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

My sincere compliments upon your two concise editorials, "Javits - The Spoiler" and "Killing the Economy." in the Wed., March 5 edition.

I have read, as you no doubt have, the Senator's Annual Report. It reads very well, however, I have been more concerned with the tabulation of the votes cast. I do not believe that the majority of voters bother to

study this record. I should like to see Suffolk Life carry a sort of box score of the voting of our legislators who represent your readers.

"Killing the Economy" is right on target. More power to you. It is my hope that you will continue to speak out and say what needs to be said.

Sincerely,  
Louis C. Raegner  
Setauket

USPS 098-300

# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 19 NO. 74

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000

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Riverhead  
Hampton East  
Mid Hampton  
Westhampton  
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley  
Patchogue  
Medford  
Sayville, Oakdale  
Ronkonkoma  
Centereach

Selden  
Coram  
Rocky Point  
Port Jefferson  
Three Village

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# Willmotts and Why-Not

David J. Willmott, Editor

## No Doesn't Mean Yes

State officials involved in foisting the Peconic-Flanders Bay Estuarine proposal on the East End appear to have a hearing problem.

Despite many loud "Nos" from most East End officials, the state has authorized a \$50,000 study of the proposal. More importantly, many officials fear the study approval makes the project a certainty. We fear they're right!

Shelter Island Supervisor Barbara Keyser, one of the East End's more outspoken representatives, asks in anger: "How often do we have to say no before NO is understood?"

Many of us must wonder at the insensitivity of our elected officials. It seems the farther removed they are, the worse the problem.

Further, we have to wonder at the state's credibility. Over and over again the people were assured that the estuarine plan wouldn't materialize unless there was a strong majority consensus for it. It appears Regional Planning Director Lee Koppelman may have forgotten that.

Local officials are losing faith in such assurances with such actions. As Keyser so colorfully puts it, "We can vote til hell freezes over," the project is going through.

This "bone" the state is tossing, to call a hearing to "get a consensus" on the estuarine, is ridiculous. The consensus is there to be seen, especially from Southampton,

Riverhead and Shelter Island. There is serious concern about the proposal.

Also, it seems that if the state isn't willing to take no for an answer, breaking its word to go by the majority, augers ill for the future. We're told the estuarine will mean no loss of local control. (We're supposed to forget about the loss in tax revenue). But, when local officials don't have the power to say no to something, when they've been assured their voice will be heard, how can they believe other assurances? Again, we fear they can't.

One disturbing facet to us is that Judith Hope, the governor's aide for Suffolk County, has been of little help, even in getting information to officials. We can see little that she, or the governor who has lived on Shelter Island, has done to help.

"A mass of half-truths," Keyser calls an article on the project put out by the state. That sums up the problem: hearing only the half said is pleasant. State officials don't want to hear any opposition. They'd rather keep having hearings until they hear things their own way.

It seems to us what really is needed is further study of the whole concept involved in the estuarine before any specific study is made. Better solutions are available, as some local officials have insisted. They should be investigated.

And why not?

## The Hated Tax

My 16-year-old son came home with his first legal paycheck. He had been paid for one hour of orientation at McDonald's earning the magnificent gross sum of \$3.10. To his utter dismay and anger, 41 cents had been deducted.

On Tuesday, April 15, all Americans must file federal and state tax returns: unbear their soul and render onto Jimmy all things that Jimmy can demand of them. Americans who have worked long and hard as producers in the system will fill the federal and state coffers with between 20 to 75 per cent of their earnings from last year's efforts. This money will be taken out of circulation, never to be

reinvested into the economy, producing new jobs, new factories, new businesses, and new sources of revenue to be taxed in the future.

The more productive the individual was, the more he or she will pay. Those who refuse to work, who have said this world owes them a living, will pay nothing. And further, during the coming year, for refusing to work, they can expect all their needs will be paid for by the forced generosity of those who have produced in the past. Those who have risked their lives and their capital, and by their own hard work, imagination, skill, and yes, even luck, to succeed are forced to pay an increased tithe, according to

their success.

Once these funds have been garnered, and the land and the pocket-books of the people raped and stripped clean, Jimmy's government will use these new-found riches to create more inflation, increase the prime interest rate, penalizing the producers who need to borrow to meet their obligations.

These funds will be used to send out an army of agents to intimidate and put the fear of God into those who complied and filed a return. These funds will be used to develop loopholes so the very rich can escape paying taxes in the future. The benefits derived by the average person from paying taxes will be reduced, as Jimmy and his government again tell us we must bite the bullet and suffer more. Why? So he and his army of bureaucrats can enjoy the quality of life they have become accustomed to, stealing five months production every year from the beleaguered consumer.

There are no wars that need to be

financed by our giving more than we can. The problems of survival for the average person are more acute than for those on the dole refusing to work, enjoying the benefits that the producers can't even afford for themselves.

We have gotten to where we are today because of the liberal bleeding hearts who have controlled the executive and the legislative branches of our government since the days of F.D.R. As you file your income tax return this year, take a careful look at what is being extracted from you. Think about the President of this country, the congressmen and senators directly responsible for the plight you are faced with.

On April 15th, turn your calendar ahead to November. Remind yourself to look at your tax return when the liberals again ask for your support. Then go to the voting booth and pay them back for what they have done to you.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It was not necessary to thank me for the renewal of my subscription. I have been behind you for some years because I believe that you stand up and say what needs to be said.

I enclose a copy of IRS Form 1040 in the tax year 1913 which may amuse you. I call your attention to Line 4., Deduction for dividends of corporations subject to like tax. The theory was that this money had already been

taxed once.

Note the tax rates. After the normal tax of 1 per cent on the first \$20,000, the "super tax" could conceivably run up as high as a whopping 6 per cent.

I have filed this away with other memories such as the nickel beer and the "Honest To God" hot free lunch of my undergraduate days at Columbia.

Regards,  
Louis C. Raegner Setauket, N.Y.

TO BE FILLED IN BY COLLECTOR. Form 1040. TO BE FILLED IN BY INTERNAL REVENUE BUREAU.

**INCOME TAX.** File No. ....

**THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO HAVE THIS RETURN IN THE HANDS OF THE COLLECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 IS \$20 TO \$1,000. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 4.)**

**UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE.**

**RETURN OF ANNUAL NET INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS.**  
(As provided by Act of Congress, approved October 3, 1913.)

**RETURN OF NET INCOME RECEIVED OR ACCRUED DURING THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 191...**  
(FOR THE YEAR 1913, FROM MARCH 1, TO DECEMBER 31.)

Filed by (or for) ..... of .....  
(Full name of individual) (Street and No.)

in the City, Town, or Post Office of ..... State of .....  
(Fill in page 2 and 3 before making entries below.)

1. GROSS INCOME (see page 2, line 12) .....	\$			
2. GENERAL DEDUCTIONS (see page 3, line 7) .....	\$			
3. NET INCOME .....	\$			
Deductions and exemptions allowed in computing income subject to the normal tax of 1 per cent.				
4. Dividends and net earnings received or accrued, of corporations, etc., subject to like tax. (See page 2, line 11) .....	\$			
5. Amount of income on which the normal tax has been deducted and withheld at the source. (See page 2, line 9, column A) .....	\$			
6. Specific exemption of \$3,000 or \$4,000, as the case may be. (See Instructions 3 and 19) .....	\$			
Total deductions and exemptions. (Items 4, 5, and 6) .....	\$			
7. TAXABLE INCOME on which the normal tax of 1 per cent is to be calculated. (See Instruction 3) .....	\$			
8. When the net income shown above on line 3 exceeds \$20,000, the additional tax thereon must be calculated as per schedule below:				
	INCOME	TAX		
1 per cent on amount over \$20,000 and not exceeding \$50,000 .....	\$	\$		
2 " " 50,000 " " 75,000 .....	\$	\$		
3 " " 75,000 " " 100,000 .....	\$	\$		
4 " " 100,000 " " 250,000 .....	\$	\$		
5 " " 250,000 " " 500,000 .....	\$	\$		
6 " " 500,000 .....	\$	\$		
Total additional or super tax .....	\$			
Total normal tax (1 per cent of amount entered on line 7) .....	\$			
Total tax liability .....	\$			

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## Paying But Not Receiving

Thousands of Eastern Long Island residents yesterday sent a check to Washington to fund the federal government. Billions of dollars left Eastern Long Island, and we do not think by sheer coincidence, never to be returned.

Last week's newspapers carried news of two setbacks for Eastern Long Island that will have dire consequences because of a lack of concern by the federal government. The Army Corps of Engineers in Washington rejected a federal intervention for repairs of the new cut at Moriches Inlet. The new breakthrough, more than a quarter of a mile wide, threatens to change the face of the South Shore. It places homes and businesses from Westhampton to Mastic in dire jeopardy. One good Nor'easter, or a minor hurricane of major gale proportions at the right time of month, during high tide, will cause flooding because of this huge, new inlet.

Water will be all the way up to Montauk Highway. Corps spokesmen say that's not their problem. State officials say they have no funds to do the project on their own. The county, obviously strapped financially, cannot do the job alone.

The stabilization of the dunes and the reclamation and rebuilding of Shinnecock and Moriches inlets have been priority projects on Eastern Long Island for years. We have made our needs known to our congressmen, our senators and to the President himself. When Richard Nixon and later Gerald Ford were President, Otis Pike, Democratic Congressman from the First District, wailed he could do nothing. He claimed a Republican President precluded his intervention with the Army Corps of Engineers. He lambasted that if we had a Democrat as President, Eastern Long Island's needs would be taken care of.

A Democrat has sat in office for the last three years, and Otis Pike was in office during his first year. Nothing

happened to help us. Bill Carney, the Conservative congressman who now represents us, has had even less success than Pike. Mother Nature waits for no politician, Republican, Democrat or Conservative. Relentlessly, she is slowly, but surely, reducing the dunes. If that continues unabated, what are now bayfront homes on the land will be oceanfront flood plains.

At the other end of Dune Road the Ponquogue Bridge is ready to collapse. Trucks, even fire engines, are not allowed across. The county proposed building a new bridge, funded primarily by county taxes. The plan was straightforward and took into account all aspects. The old bridge would be left standing until the new bridge was completed. Traffic would not be disrupted. When the new bridge was completed, the old bridge would be turned into a fishing and recreational pier, a super idea to expand recreational facilities on Eastern Long Island.

The county's plan called for a straight-line bridge connecting Dune Road with Foster Avenue. A straight-line bridge is economical. Everything seemed to be going right until the Coast Guard raised objections based on environmental grounds. They claim the county's plan will necessitate filling in from one to three acres of what is currently called wetlands.

The Coast Guard recommendation is to build a curved bridge costing approximately \$12 million more than the county plan. Traffic would be halted over the bridge for one to two years. The east end of Dune Road's economy, as well as uptown Hampton Bays, would be crippled. Environmentalists, which include a multitude of activist groups, county officials and those from the Department of Environmental Conservation, never raised a question concerning the environment on this project. Yet, the Coast Guard, charged with keeping open and policing navigable facilities, oversteps its boundaries

and places a barrier in the way of this necessary project.

On April 15, as billions of dollars left Long Island for Washington, the only return that we can see will be more restrictions, bureaucratic doubletalk and a refusal to meet and solve people's problems. Hostilities toward the federal government are growing by the day. People are developing hatred for the President, the Congress and all the obstructionist bureaucrats they can't seem to control. We need help on Eastern Long Island, not

harassment. Both of these projects involve not only our economy, but our very lives and existence.

We face a definite threat to our health and safety, yet Washington officials continue to be obstructionists rather than aides.

Is the solution a new President, a new Congress and a new U.S. Senator? Maybe by voting out these people who now run the government as a hindrance, rather than a help, will send a message to future leaders. And why not?

## "The Paper Chase"

A game of "Papers, Papers! Who's got the papers?" appears to be being played in Brookhaven, with the aggrieved property owner the loser.

Residents in recent weeks inquiring about forms used to file tax grievances apparently are being given the old-fashioned runaround, on several counts:

They are told there are no forms available. They are advised that they can write a letter setting out their grievance with their assessment, and this will suffice. And, they aren't being told that forms can be obtained at the County Tax Center in Riverhead.

Most serious, it seems to us, is the erroneous statement that a letter can serve in lieu of an official tax form. Assemblyman I.W. (Bill) Bianchi says that is illegal, the proper form must be used by state law, and claims otherwise filed would be invalid, most likely.

Bianchi contacted us in reference to the article we ran about problems residents were having with the Brookhaven tax assessor's office. He said that the members of the state Board of Equalization and Assessment are concerned about the situation and will investigate locally.

Bianchi mentioned a concern which seems valid: Are residents deliberately being discouraged from filing grievances? Brookhaven last year had the highest number of complaints in Suffolk County, and that number is expected to increase this year. It has been estimated that there could be as many as 10,000 grievances filed.

Any attempt to hinder property owners in this fundamental right to protest an assessment is unconscionable. It should be stopped at once.

And why not?

## It's Not Too Late

Fifteen weeks have passed since Jan. 1, one quarter of the year. Fifteen weeks ago we requested everyone who receives Suffolk Life to renew their subscription to this valuable newspaper by sending in \$4.99.

It's imperative we have these funds to continue doing the kind of news reporting you expect your paper to do, particularly in this day and age of rapid inflation and skyrocketing prices. The money you invest in Suffolk Life is probably the best investment you can make in your own

future economical well-being.

Suffolk Life is one of the few watchdogs and voices you have over-seeing local, county and state government, speaking out against ruinous federal economic policies. All this costs money. Your subscription helps with this.

If you have neglected to send in your subscription for 1980, please fill out the form below and send it in today. We are counting on you, like you count on us.

And why not?

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Please continue my subscription for one year, I am pre-paying; here's my check for \$4.99. Please send me the form for a free classified ad.

I prefer to pay \$1.00 each month. Please have my carrier collect.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Suffolk County Life Inc.,"  
Box 262, Westhampton, New York 11977.



## Your Right to Choose

In 1776, this country, this state, this county was the scene of many battles by its initial settlers to determine the type of government they wanted.

This basic principle caused men to take up arms to fight and give their lives. More than 200 years have gone by since we, the people, gained our freedom to make this fundamental choice. Ironically, the same situation exists today that existed in the 1700's. A sizeable group of people here in Suffolk County are dissatisfied with the quality and-or the cost of our current system of government, called the County Legislature.

The Legislature has been petitioned informally, heard the cries of citizens asking for the right to choose whether they should continue to be governed by a Legislature. Or, can there be a County Board of Supervisors operating under a weighted vote system? The majority of the legislators have refused to act or be responsive to the citizens' request.

In 1978, Suffolk County residents received the right to petition their county government to place on the ballot issues legislators refused to address. Having gained the Initiative and Referendum privilege, citizens are now going forth with petitions requiring the Legislature to address this question. If they refuse to act positively, citizens will gather the necessary 17,000 signatures from across the county to place this issue on the ballot in November, anyway. The sponsoring petitioners are David J. Willmott, publisher of Suffolk Life, Stanley Sousa, editor of the Sunday Digest, and Henry F. O'Brien, former district attorney from Suffolk County. The petition drive from each of the 10 towns is being coordinated by town supervisors.

Starting today, they will have

available the official petitions for your signature. Initially, we only need 1,000 signatures; we will submit 2,000. Once in the hands of the clerk of the Legislature, the petitions are to be turned over to the Board of Elections for validating signatures. A copy of the law will go to the county attorney. Suffolk Life will deposit a check for \$250, the required filing fee.

The county attorney and the Board of Elections have 30 days to review the law and validate the petitions. They then will be returned to the Legislature, which has 60 days to act on the petitions. If they vote "no" or refuse to act we will conduct a massive petition drive during August to secure the necessary signatures.

There is no doubt about our success. We will turn in petitions containing between 25,000 and 50,000 signatures. There should be no doubt in any of the county legislator's minds either. They are going to face this issue in November whether they like it or not. The County Legislature can expedite the entire procedure, allowing more time for campaigning and actual debate on the merits of both systems by voting immediately to bring this question to the ballot. Any refusal to do so is an arrogant denial of your democratic freedoms. Denial is an open admission the Legislature itself cannot withstand the scrutiny of voter approval.

The voters of Suffolk County will choose between a weighted Board of Supervisors and the current form of government, a Legislature, on the first Tuesday in November, whether the legislators themselves place the question on the ballot, or the people do it for them. Petitions have been printed, they are in circulation, the signatures are being gathered.

And why not?

## Is Carey Listening ?

People, or by a better description, state bureaucrats, seem to have an acute hearing problem. We don't know if it was always this way.

The Friday meeting on the proposed estuarine made it painfully obvious state bureaucrats intended to hear only what they want. The multitude of estuarine proposals have been rancid with fraud from the beginning.

Rep. William Carney's initial support was needed to get this proposal off the ground. He allegedly was told by Lee Koppelman, Long Island Regional Planning director, that all local officials from school board members through the county level enthusiastically supported the estuarine concept. In fact, few local officials had any awareness of the program. One supervisor admitted he didn't even know the meaning of estuarine last December. The proposal would be under federal regulation, and conceivably, could strip every town, village, school

board, county and state government of current powers to determine, to rule and to regulate all areas surrounded by Flanders and Peconic Bays. The plan could lead to a mass taking over of lands with Robins Island the prime example.

Those in attendance at last Friday's meeting learned a little bit about the bureaucracy and why this country is in such a financial disaster. According to an admission from the Secretary of State's office, this whole mess started because of an edict from Washington last fall. The state had to spend \$2 million immediately (heaven forbid they save it) or it would have to be returned to the general treasury and the taxpayers.

The hearing was well-attended by environmentalists. These are the people for the last decade have stood in the way, sometimes rightly, of projects for developing the land, the waters and our resources for people. They call themselves environmentalists, but obstructionists is

just as honest. Currently, the waters of Peconic Bay are the cleanest on Long Island, primarily because for 200 years East Enders have watched over and guarded them.

To develop areas surrounding these waters you must go through planning and zoning departments, town conservations and environmental bureaus, the county planning and environmental departments. Also, add the state Department of Energy Conservation, and depending upon the situation, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard. All along the way there are public hearings and more than adequate investigatory procedures to smoke out potentially damaging developments.

Supporters of the estuarine claim all they want is a little study -- one that will cost \$50,000.

Step 5 "evaluates study findings and recommends a proposed action." Even if the commission conducting this study recommends no action be taken, there are another five steps. What an outlandish waste of money.

Assistant Secretary of State

Eugenia Flatow, who conducted this hearing, stated at the onset she was unclear that a consensus had been reached by local people. But, she then went on to admit that officials from three to four out of five of the town boards speaking for their constituents had rejected the proposal wholeheartedly.

We don't know where Flatow went to school, but that adds up to at least 60 percent opposition.

Southampton officials had only been turned from a "no" to a "yes," based upon assurances she had given for local management. When she vacillated on this officials once again withdrew their support.

We hope Judith Hope, Carey's special assistant for Suffolk County, heard the testimony, felt the emotion, the hatred, rapidly developing toward "Big Brother" in Albany.

If Hope conveys this message to the governor, he will do the only sensible thing: direct the Secretary of State to send the funds back to Washington and close the book on the subject. The sooner he does it, the better.

And why not?

## How Much Will Peconic Cost? ? ?

Proponents and opponents of the Peconic County question have voiced serious concern over cost.

One of the loudest opponents, West End legislator Tony Noto, himself a proponent of big and massive government, claims the cost will be outlandish. Understanding Noto and his philosophy of government, this is a proper analogy on his part. Proponents of Peconic County disagree.

Creation of Peconic County is to eliminate much of the bureaucracy, much of the regulation and outlandish financial waste that currently goes on in Suffolk County. This idea of what it will cost to operate Peconic County is a fraction of what the current cost is for county government. That's because people on the East End want less, not more, government. The state constitution mandates counties provide a minimum of government, a minimum of services. It is then up to the locally elected officials, the Board of Supervisors, to determine how much additional county government their people want.

Officials running Suffolk County over the last 20 years, because of their isolation from the public, increased the cost of government from a little under a half million dollars to more than \$730 million. During this 20-year

span, the Peconic County movement grew from an impossible dream to a potential reality. The people of the East End desire small government. They are fully aware most county bureaus, agencies, departments and commissions are a duplication of services already being provided on the town and the state level. They have no desire to follow in the tragic footsteps of Suffolk.

The government the founders of Peconic County envision will barely meet or exceed minimum state mandates. Will they be able to operate effectively and efficiently? More than 30 counties in the state do just that. Most jurisdictions, most powers and most expenses are incurred by the towns or the states. The county is only involved where the town or state can't operate. Each town determines how much it wants to spend on what services, rather than having them shoved down their throats.

Creation of Peconic County also will give the remaining portion of Suffolk County a grand opportunity to review the entire county operation. The people could reduce their government.

Peconic County should have the unanimous support of all 10 town officials, for its creation could and should mean a reduction in taxes.

And why not?

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