

Today's Doomsday

Today we must dig deep for Uncle Sam. It is April 15, the last day we can legitimately file and pay our taxes without penalty.

Our system of taxation both on the state and the federal level is supposed to be tied to a person's earnings and ability to pay. It is called the progressive system of taxation. In theory, the more you have, the more you earn, the more you will be taxed. This is a good theory, but it does not work in practice.

Our tax system has become more unjust as inflation has spiraled. The culprit is called bracket creep.

As we earn more dollars which in reality are nothing more than adjustments for inflation, the percentage of what we owe as well as the actual dollars is increased while at the same time the value of the dollar is decreased.

Bracket creep hurts the middle income taxpayers the most. They are forced continually to pay a higher percentage of their earnings in taxes while the actual value of the dollars earned -- even though greater in number -- do not buy the goods and services they once purchased. Bracket creep could be equalized and controlled through a system of indexing.

Indexing is unilaterally opposed by the liberal Democrats. Indexing would control the amount of money government is able to take away from productive people. It would stop government from being the

beneficiary of unauthorized tax increases. Indexing also would put a halt to inflation, denying the government millions of dollars in increased tax revenues every year, which is the root of inflation.

Without indexing, within 10 years, most assuredly in 20, every taxpayer in the United States will be paying one-half his income in federal taxes alone. There will no longer be a difference between brackets. Everybody will be in the top bracket. The government will be rich, the workers poor.

As you are rushing frantically to mail your tax return, stop for a moment, send the President, your senator, and particularly, your congressman a note saying "Stop bracket creep now. Pass indexing this year."

Those of our readers who are in the Second Congressional District should be especially sure to convey this message to liberal Democrat Tom Downey. Downey believes you do not know what bracket creep is doing to you and therefore he can continue to oppose an indexing system and still remain your congressman.

Downey obviously believes you can fool some of the people all of the time and all the people some of the time. Until Downey gets the message that you understand how bracket creep is robbing you of your money, he is going to continue with his liberal ways opposing indexing, your only real hope of staying even. And why not?

Season of Hope

Passover starts Saturday. Easter will be celebrated Sunday. To Jews and Christians, both of these holidays are holidays of hope. They are also reminders of our past and the heritage of our religion.

Passover for the Jews is a reminder of the oppression that they have suffered and the freedom they have won, the sacrifices their ancestors made so they could be free to practice their beliefs. The matzoh is a symbol of the past, when the Jews were kept on the move, never being allowed to stay in one place for a definite period of time; and as a result, their bread

had to be made unleavened.

The Easter celebration is a glorious reminder that God gave his only Son to show believers the way home. Jesus was crucified and died on Good Friday. Three days later, He rose from the dead, leaving behind the foundation of Catholicism and all Christian religions.

Easter is the most joyous of holidays in the Christian world, for it is a renewal of the spirit and meaning of the church, and a celebration of the opening of the gates of Heaven and a reincarnation of His children with God.

This 1981 holiday season finds the Jews with a homeland, Israel. The Catholic world has a new leader, Pope John Paul II, who has reached out spiritually and physically to the people of all nations.

There are those who say religion is dead, that it has no meaning, it's irrelevant in this day and age of technology - we disagree. Religion to

millions around the globe is a fundamental set of laws to guide your life, a belief in a power stronger than yourself and an eternal reward for following holy teachings.

Yes, Easter and Passover are joyous times for many. We hope that your homes experience this joy, this love and this hope for the future. And why not?

Free Speech vs. Abuse

Last week a trial was held on an arrest brought about by the town supervisor of Babylon, Raymond Allmendinger. At a town board meeting he had an attorney arrested on disorderly conduct charges, for verbally abusing the board when it passed a resolution that was opposed to his view and the position of his client.

Last weekend, we had a discussion with a town leader who informed us that one of his councilmen was considering not running again for office. This councilman is a businessman who is well-respected for his intelligence, foresight and public manner by both Democrats and Republicans. He is the type of person we see too little of in political life.

The reason he had given his leader for his possible resignation was that he didn't have to take the kind of abuse he was subject to on a regular

basis at town board meetings.

We have attended many board meetings in our newspaper career. We have seen many instances where those in attendance, as well as the elected officials, had their time wasted by people who had nothing to say but enjoyed making a spectacle out of themselves and having a captive audience. We have often cringed in our seats, wishing there was some way these offenders could be shut up. Yet, we have attended many other meetings where people have gotten up and spoken in emotional tones, addressing issues town boards had refused to explore.

We believe in the First Amendment. We believe in free speech. We also believe in common sense. There must be a way to harness the gadfly and still allow those who have something legitimate to say to speak without fear of incrimination. And why not?

Must Serve The People

A select committee comprised of four Democrats and five Republicans is attempting to redraw legislative boundary lines to fit the changes in Suffolk's population over the last 10 years. Each district will contain 70,000 residents.

By all that is right and fair, each district should be drawn along lines that keep homogeneous communities within the same district. Unfortunately, right and reason often do not prevail and as a result, we have gerrymandering of districts to fit political needs rather than peoples' needs.

The most horrendous example of this at the last drawing of the lines ten years ago was the First Legislative District.

This district is composed of northeastern Brookhaven, the Town of Riverhead, Southold, Shelter Island, and East Hampton Town. No one in

his right mind would have cut a district for the East End north and south. East End districts must be east-west!

Southampton and East Hampton Towns, according to the current population figures, number just short of 70,000; a logical district. Shelter Island, Southold and Riverhead, plus northeast Brookhaven, should make the second.

As we go further west, districts should be drawn wherever possible along a combination of school district lines. School districts have become a hub of community activity. They usually encompass the major hamlet and retail centers.

We hope the legislative reapportionment committee will follow peoples' needs instead of those of the politicians and keep the boundaries within the realm of reality. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

With interest I watch the present controversy over whether or not evolution should be taught in our schools.

My personal feelings are that the evolutionists are a bunch of nuts. But yet when I read and hear of the murders, muggings and robberies being committed, I can see some merit for their claims as the entire country becomes divided between prey and predators, like animals living in a jungle.

When I hear someone gossiping or spreading malicious rumors, I cannot but think they are either parrots or magpies, part of the animal kingdom. When I think of how

gullible we are in believing political promises, I cannot think of other than that we are jackasses. When we blindly follow leaders, political, religious or otherwise, can it not be said we emulate the lowly sheep? Yet despite all our actions that are so animal-like, I refuse to believe in evolution for I am a man created in the image of the Lord. Yet when one studies humanity past and present, can it not be said the claims of the evolutionists do have some merit, however so slight.

The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Keith
Ridge



Gas Going Down

Over the last five years, every time a shiek in one of the Middle East oil exporting countries hiccuped, the price of oil went up. It didn't have to be anything major, just rumors, and gas increased a couple of cents at the pump.

It's interesting to note that in recent years it has been revealed that there is a surplus in crude oil around the world.

Last Sunday, a Saudi Arabian sheik on "Meet the Press" revealed that his country was responsible for over-production of oil in order to drive petroleum prices down and break the cartel.

Saudi Arabia, in accepting its responsibility, came to the realization that the cartel's actions of unrealistic increases in the cost of crude oil are jeopardizing the world's economy. They are insisting that all future increases of crude oil prices be locked into the rate of inflation.

With a major producer such as Saudi Arabia taking such a drastic stance, you would think the prices of

oil would fall drastically. Not so, according to published reports. Major refiners who enjoy 200 percent to 300 percent increases in profits last year, now say they can't reduce prices or their profits would be put into jeopardy. Tough!

We suspect there is a lot of room for downward price movement in the huge price increases oil companies granted themselves over the last five years. There's certainly a lot of room for reduction in profits.

With more cars getting better mileage and consumers becoming aware of conservation, an over-abundant situation would be a reality for some time to come.

That is, unless the oil companies once more create a false shortage by withholding products, as they have done in the past. It looks like they won't have the Arabs to blame this time, and they also face a new, realistic administration in Washington. Maybe times have changed for the better. And why not?

LILCO's Stockholders' Responsibility

For a utility, the Long Island Lighting Co. has been anything but conservative when it comes to expanding stockholders' equity in the corporation.

The board of directors of LILCO and the management of the corporation entered more than a decade ago, into the development of high-risk, high-cost nuclear generating facilities. Many of us who are not LILCO stockholders questioned the feasibility of the corporation's entry into this risky, unproven means of generating electricity.

More recently, the management and the directors of LILCO invested tens of millions of dollars in a financially shaky uranium development company. This company has since fallen on hard financial times and it is questioned whether LILCO will ever be able to recover its investment.

The management and the directors of LILCO are now looking at the ratepayers of this monopoly to bail them out. LILCO has petitioned the Public Service Commission to allow the utility to pass on to the ratepayers the cost of completing its Shoreham nuclear power plant.

The present laws do not allow the utility to build the cost of capital improvements into its rates. Capital improvements should come from stockpayers' equity or the issuance of new stock as the wealth and the worth of the corporation is expanded by this capital improvement.

Allowing LILCO to add the cost of this capital improvement to ratepayers' bills makes the

ratepayers stockholders through osmosis. They incur the liability of ownership without having the ability to enjoy the profits from their investment.

When management makes mistakes that seriously affect the financial well-being of the corporation, it is the responsibility of the board of directors either to take disciplinary action or to replace the management with more conservative, fiscally responsible people. When the board of directors misjudges the situation and causes the corporation to suffer financial difficulties, stockholders should use their proxies to replace the directors with more qualified, careful directors. This is the way it works in private business.

Just because LILCO is a state-sanctioned monopoly does not give it

the right to abdicate its responsibility and charge its captive customers for the errors of their ways.

The State Public Service Commission cannot, in good conscience, -- and should not even consider -- to allow LILCO to charge the ratepayers for the expansion of the financial base of this private, profit-making corporation. LILCO has done enough damage to the economy and its captive customers here on Long Island through ever-increasing rates.

Real Battle Ahead

Last week, Peter Cohalan, in a well-orchestrated publicity stunt, signed into law, before a group of students, the controversial Suffolk County Deposit Bill. Environmentalists from Montauk to Huntington rejoiced, for their battle to require a deposit on all carbonated beverage containers sold in Suffolk County had been brought to a successful conclusion.

The rejoicing will be short-lived, however, for a battle does not win a war. For the war on litter to be won, there must be a unified, state-wide bill on all carbonated beverage containers sold from Montauk to Niagara.

This concept is hotly contested by the bottlers and their lobbyists. They can be beaten elsewhere as they were here in Suffolk County.

In the heat of the Suffolk battle, both Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson and Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink announced they were looking favorably upon the enactment of a deposit law for the entire state.

Although Suffolk has forged ahead and pioneered this concept, the county legislature may well have to reconsider its actions once the law is implemented and the financial impact of a single county, going it alone, is felt. With all cutbacks in funding coming from the federal and state governments, we question seriously

The Public Service Commission must live up to its responsibility of regulating this utility by demanding a reduction in cost which would result in a reduction in rates.

If the utility itself cannot provide the reduction in rates, then the Public Service Commission should explore the possibility of the break-up of this corporation into an operating corporation charged with providing service and a publicly owned provider of the power itself. And why not?

whether Suffolk will be able to afford the loss in sales tax revenues caused by being the only county in the state to have such a deposit law.

Consumers will bring beverages across the county border in wholesale numbers to save the projected \$2 to \$3 per case difference resulting from the deposit and the additional cost of handling incurred by beverage dealers. Additionally, the lesser-known brands will no longer be marketed in Suffolk County and those who choose these as their favorite brands will import them.

Environmentalists and those politicians who support this measure now have an obligation to lobby and push for the successful implementation on a state-wide level. The main purpose of passing a local law on the county level was to demonstrate vividly and to force the state to live up to its obligation.

Without a state-wide bill, Suffolk will be left in no-man's land and we seriously question whether we will be able to afford this luxury. If a state-wide bill is not passed, all the political benefits the politicians derived from supporting this measure will turn to a liability and that is something even the most secure politician should think about seriously -- now, while they can still do something about it. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I don't see how you can justify your editorial "Working For Welfare." You need to sharpen a pencil and show us all how a person or the head of a household can live on \$3.35 per hour. It isn't a matter of working or not, rather a matter of math. Immediate math.

Let's for the sake of making a point list the

necessary expenses to survive: rent, \$200 to \$300 per month; transportation, an auto and its insurance, gas and oil, \$70 per month bare minimum if you own it; food for two, show me how you can eat for \$5 a day or \$150 per month; phone, needed for safety, \$15 per month; utilities, gas, oil, electric, water, garbage, take a guess as heating is usually \$600 per year alone. I would say \$100 per month at the least.

Without any medical or dental expense, emergency repairs, clothing, taxes or children, your offer of \$3.35 doesn't amount to enough, to quote, "pay the bills" without one single wasted dime. You just can't make it on those wages.

Name Withheld

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Roseland Ranch is everything you said it was.

We spent last weekend there, compliments of Suffolk Life, and enjoyed every moment. We went riding, swimming and even had snow for the snowmobiles. It was terrific. Also, we ate, and ate, and ate food.

Another couple, Roy Zaleski and family, went with us and just thought it was terrific.

So thanks to Suffolk Life and my Mom, who won the weekend, but gave it to us.

Our thanks again,
Chris, Betty, Donald and Traci Twomey

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Give Reagan a Chance

President Reagan has just completed his first 100 days. During his first three months, Reagan and his staff have proposed bold, back-to-basics economic plans, plans like those that have worked in the past, that helped this country grow, develop, prosper and profit.

Before the plans were even announced in their entirety, the liberal Democrats in Congress criticized, nitpicked and determined to sabotage the concepts and the programs themselves. The plans have been attacked by every liberal-socialist lobby group in the country.

Some of the ideas mean cutbacks in social legislation and the elimination of projects and programs that have proven to be wasteful and unworkable. Reagan was elected by the majority of the people of the United States who wanted a change. His margin was tremendous. Where liberals could be identified in the Senate and in Congress, they went down to defeat, and conservative opponents were elected in their places. Those liberals whose personal charm and constituent good work allowed them to survive should not read their victories as a license to buck the president's plans.

One of these liberals whose personal charm allowed him to survive is Thomas Downey, the congressman from the Second District. Downey

belongs to the group that has fostered huge federal deficits, increased federal spending and the elimination of real income for workers and businesses.

Downey has been able to hide his past voting record, which is one of the most liberal in Congress. Downey now has an opportunity to redeem himself by supporting Reagan's economic and tax plans. His failure to do so should be fairly easy to perceive and he should be watched closely by the people of his district. We encourage the voters of his district to communicate with him and encourage him to become more realistic, more mature, remind him there is no Santa Claus except for you, the taxpayer, and that your sleigh has run out of gas.

The people of America have spoken. They want more in their paychecks and they want this money to be worth more at the cash register. Downey's way won't achieve this. Reagan's might.

Reagan can't do it by himself, he must have the support in Congress and in the Senate. The support will be forthcoming if you let your congressman and your senator know you are watching them and you want them to vote with the president. You want them to vote for you. And why not?

When Politics Do Not Make Good Government

County Executive Peter Cohalan appointed five Democrats and five Republicans, plus one so-called independent, to the county's reapportionment commission. This was heralded as good politics, which was supposed to lead to good government.

The reapportionment commission was charged with redistricting Suffolk County to make 18 legislative districts with an average of 71,388 people. The commission was allowed

a variable of five percent either way.

The commission released its recommendations last week. They're the most horrendous example of gerrymandering for political purposes we have ever seen. It's a disgrace to the commission members and an absolute embarrassment to the county executive. Peter Cohalan should hang his head in disgrace.

The proposed districts pay absolutely no attention to town lines,

geographical boundaries, homogeneous communities or ethnic needs. The boundaries have been drawn strictly along political lines. They were drawn to insure that the incumbent legislators friendly to Cohalan had safe districts to run in and that the wishes of the political bosses in the back rooms be adhered to.

If this is the new Republicanism that Cohalan has so proudly proclaimed, he can keep it. It's no better and no worse than we would have expected out of Dick Zeidler,

Nicky Barbato and Perry Duryea. Cohalan had made his motto that good government makes good politics and good politics makes good government. If Cohalan accepts the reapportionment as it stands, he has made a mockery of this statement and will end up living with the consequences.

You can bet your sweet bippy the legislature will approve the plan. It helped write the plan. Cohalan should veto it, if he hasn't forgotten that he was elected to serve the people, not the politicians.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"This is a time for serious action"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I must take strong exception to your recent editorial which contained many misleading and distorted characterizations of my words and actions. By quoting extensively from an editorial in The Wall Street Journal which was itself in error, you have presented a misleading account of the tone and substance of my exchange with the Secretary of the Treasury.

In representing the administration's views, Secretary Regan argued before the House Ways and Means Committee that the Kemp-Roth tax plan would result in a substantial increase in the amount of money the American people would put into savings accounts, and thus would increase the amount of money available for investment in business expansion and productivity improvements. I believe, however, that the less than \$10 a week which the average Long Island homeowner would receive in 1982 would simply be gobbled up by increases in the price of home heating oil or gasoline, or by the escalating cost of food, clothing, rent or electricity. The President's tax proposal is based on the assumption that a tax cut will substantially increase savings; my point is that this is a flawed assumption based on no reliable economic evidence.

There are less risky, more direct ways of cutting taxes to increase savings, encourage productive investment, and relieve the burden on middle-class taxpayers. Some examples might include: accelerated depreciation schedules for business investment, an end to the marriage penalty for two-income households, a broad program of Individual Retirement Accounts for Americans, a broadening of tax brackets to prevent "bracket creep," and a one-year tax

aimed more directly at the hard-pressed middle and lower income levels.

This is a time for serious action to improve our economic future. It does little good to look for convenient villains responsible for all our economic ills. In dealing with our difficulties we don't need misleading explanations or simplistic solutions or emotional scapegoating. They can only lead us into even deeper trouble.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Downey
Member of Congress
2nd District - West Islip

Editor's Note: I don't blame you for getting upset with us. No liberal likes the cat to be let out of the bag in his home district.

Your past voting record and your current destructive socialistic economic policies have gone a long way toward creating the economic mess this country is in. What is even sadder, you are intelligent and must have been aware of the impact your actions have on your constituents.

They are the ones who have had to pay the inflated taxes which decreased real buying power. Your district, as well as the rest of the island, has been hurt economically by your votes and your philosophy.

Sorry, Tom: if you act and vote in Washington like a liberal, your constituents are going to know it. The day and age of doing what you want in Washington, then coming home and acting like a conservative, are over. You will be known for what you are, not what you would like people to believe.

"Families out there like mine"

Dear Mr. Charde:

Your article brought tears to my eyes. It could not have been said better. My phone rang constantly on Thursday and it was amazing to know that there are other families out there like mine.

I received calls from four other families who have Ichthyosis in their family and the desperation that they showed over the phone made me cry. Believe it or not, all these families were from the Mastic-Shirley area. It was touching to have an elderly man call me up, speaking broken English, and arrange with his doctor to see my children free of charge. My husband and I were never so pleased to have the responses that we had

from your article.

These other families have been down the same road as we have and some worse than us. I could never explain the experiences that I had on the phone with these people grasping and pleading for help like we were some sort of Gods. I directed them all to Dr. McGuire for proper medical attention and diagnosis, and welcomed them into our foundation.

I just cannot forget the cries for help that I heard yesterday. Thanks so much for all of your help. Please keep in touch.

Very truly yours,
Andy and Donna DeAngelis
Mastic

"We will continue to serve the East End"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Recently we sent you a letter asking for your support in informing your readers of the financial plight of the East End Office of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism. Your help and the response of your readers was gratifying. While we are certainly not yet out of the financial woods, the contributions that we have received have been most helpful and

are deeply appreciated. We will continue to try to serve the East End as long as we are able.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Walter B. Potts
East End Task Force
L.I. Council on Alcoholism
Westhampton Beach

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