

## Happy Easter

This Sunday is the happiest holiday in the Christian world.

Through the goodness of God, and the giving to us of his only Son, we who believe had the gates of Heaven opened to the faithful. To walk through these gates upon the fulfillment of our lives requires that we only use our common sense and provide others with common courtesy.

Easter is a time of joy. A time of happiness. It is a time of rebirth. Even atheists must acknowledge a power stronger than themselves that

causes the buds to open, the grass to turn green.

It's a time for reflection. A time for commitment. "How can I, as a good human being, make life more bearable, more positive for my fellow man?"

God showed his way as he does every year for those who need a tangible evidence. Read and listen to His teachings, conduct your life with pride, and compassion, and God's way and the rewards of the next life will be yours.

And why not?

## The Right To Farm...

## ...vs. Right To Co-exist

Every once in a while, legislation is proposed on the local or state levels that is well-meaning, but the verbiage is such that the proposed law ultimately protects one segment of our population at the expense of another. Such is the case with a proposed local law introduced recently in the Suffolk County Legislature by Legislator Gregory Blass.

Blass' law, entitled "Right to Farm," would bar nuisance complaints "against bona fide agricultural operations which do not adversely impact the public health and safety." Proposed at the request of the Long Island Farm Bureau, according to our reports, the proposed law offers protection to the farmer but little concern for the public. For example: "An agricultural activity conducted on farmland, if consistent with good agricultural practices and established prior to surrounding non-agricultural activities, is deemed to be reasonable and shall not constitute a nuisance unless the activity has a substantially adverse affect on the public health and safety." Who will decide what is substantial and what is not? How? As compared to what?

The proposal goes on: "The Right to Farm... includes the use of large irrigation pumps and equipment, aerial and ground seeding and spraying, large tractors, numerous farm laborers and the application of fertilizers, all for the purpose of producing from the land agricultural products such as vegetables, grains, hay, fruits, fibers, wood, trees, plants, shrubs, flowers and seeds."

That portion of the bill covers a lot of ground! But one particular phrase stands out: "... numerous farm laborers." Does Blass suggest farmers have a right to create farm labor camps to house "numerous farm laborers" without public input? Or that the public should be without legal recourse in the event occupants of such camps cause problems in the lives of nearby residents?

What about the "large irrigation pumps and equipment, aerial and ground seeding and spraying, large tractors," etc. Does Blass really

suggest farms would be given carte blanche in all these operations? If an aerial spraying operation goes off course, and nearby homes that were there before flying became a means of spreading fertilizers and pesticides are impacted, should those residents be denied legal recourse?

And there's more: "The foregoing uses and activities included in the Right to Farm (law), when reasonable (who is to decide?) and necessary (by whose standards?) for the particular farming, livestock or fowl production, and when conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices, may occur on holidays, Sundays, and weekdays, at night and in the day, and the noise, odors, dust and fumes that are caused by them are also specifically permitted as part of the exercise of this right."

Somewhere in the preparation of all this verbiage, it seems to us, the public is losing the right to live while the farmers get their right to farm.

We are and have always been pro farmer. But we stand firm against any legislation that attempts, with such a broad brush, to protect farming operations from what could well be a justified complaint even though it does not "substantially" have an adverse affect on health and safety. Farmers should certainly have a right to farm, but people should also have a right to live, unaffected by excessive noise, excessive spraying (which has already taken a toll on our groundwater supplies), odors, dust and fumes.

We are not alone in our concern about the effect this law could have on the rights of the public. The Suffolk County Attorney's Office has reviewed the proposal, virtually the same bill submitted and tabled last year, and has for the second time expressed doubts about the legality of a law that takes the right of private complaint against a private nuisance. However, a spokesman for that office said, the Legislature "has ignored our legal advice before and can do so again."

We would strongly urge our county legislators to take into consideration

the rights of the public before approving the right to farm. When government starts acting to take away the public's right to legal recourse against a problem of any kind, it is projecting itself into an area in which it does not belong! What's next? A law prohibiting the public

from complaining about the actions of politicians?

The public deserves better from their governmental representatives, especially those who are also attorneys and should know better. Or maybe they just need better representatives. And why not?

## Stop The Battle Before It Begins

Our waterways and all that live beneath them are the domain of all residents. Some make their living by harvesting fish and shellfish, while others fish and clam as a means of supplementing their regular income. Still others fish for pure recreation, while another group enjoys simply being on the water and could care less about fish or clams.

The commercial fishermen have a proprietary interest in the water. This proprietary interest is growing as the increased use of our waterways by recreational fishermen creates what commercial fishermen often view as an infringement upon "their territories."

It has been reported to us that there is a move afoot by commercial fishing interests to support the development and enactment of new laws and regulations which would limit recreational, sport and incidental use of our waterways. This is a battle this group cannot win, for the number of people - those who also vote - are staggering compared to the number of those who make a living from our waters. Unrealistic regulations that serve a limited, single group or element will cause a unification on the part of the majority that will overwhelm the minority. Common sense and respect for the rights of others will come not from political lobbying efforts on the part of the commercial fishing interests, but from working together to solve the problems before they develop.

An example: a growing problem has developed over the past few years as the placement of conch pots proliferated in bay waters. Conch pots are placed on the bottom of the bay with ropes leading to buoy markers on the surface, the buoy serving as a marker so the concher can find his pots to harvest his catch. Unfortunately, many of these markers are, in far too many instances, nothing more than plastic milk containers which are difficult to see in a choppy sea, and impossible to see at night.

Many conchers either arrogantly or carelessly placed their pots in channels and in heavily travelled areas. Many boaters have wound up with their props wrapped by the ropes holding the buoy marker. This damage is quite expensive to repair.

These conditions caused the passion and anger of boaters to flare, and some of the pots disappeared in the dark of night, leading fears of a full scale war between conchers and boaters on Peconic Bay. Boaters began checking their boats quite religiously, fearful that retaliation would follow and damage to boats would result.

This could have and should have been avoided. Hopefully common sense will prevail this year so it doesn't happen again. If conchers respect the rights of the boaters, placing their traps a sensible distance away from channels, canals and paths of normal navigation, the problem would be eased. In those other areas, the buoy markers should be of a color easily seen even in a choppy sea. A short pole with a flag, as many lobster pots are marked, would make them even more visible, and reflective strips on the markers so they can be easily picked up with a spotlight at night would cut down on the problems experienced by those who travel the bays at night.

Common sense should be the law, not state-mandated rules and regulations. But cooperation and respect for others are the key ingredients that must be utilized. Commercial and sport fishermen, as well as all boaters, should be able to use our God-given gift of the waterways side by side without rancor. A little common sense and mutual respect will go a long way toward making this possible.

Reason must prevail if the battle that is inevitable, if we continue our current course, is to be avoided.

And why not?

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## SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Riverhead  
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Moriches

Mastic, Shirley  
Patchogue  
Medford  
Sayville, Oakdale  
Ronkonkoma  
Centersuch

Seiden  
Coram  
Rocky Point  
Port Jefferson  
Three Village

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## Congratulations Governor Carey

In the past few years, we have not been an enthusiastic fan of Governor Carey for he seemed to be paying more attention to politics than to public service, more attention to his social life than to the people of the State of New York. Last year, though, Carey vetoed a bill that we think was horrendous and he should be congratulated for doing so.

The police unions throughout the state lobbied for, and the legislators passed, a bill that would have allowed police unions to make financial contributions directly to political parties and office seekers. The impact and implication of this are horrendous.

The bill swept through both the Assembly and the Senate, because the legislators felt no one was looking, or did not carefully consider the impact of their vote. These legislators included many from our own Long Island delegation.

If Carey had not vetoed this message we could see the following possible situation in the future:

"Mr. Supervisor, on behalf of the Policemen's Benevolent Association, I have a check for \$10,000 as a contribution from the men toward your campaign."

"Thank you, Mr. Policeman, is

there anything else I can do for you?"

"Yes, Mr. Supervisor, there is a little matter of negotiations. My men feel that it is a hardship to work, and would like their paychecks sent, after the first year, to their Florida condo."

"Well, Mr. Policeman, you know \$10,000 doesn't buy everything today. How about we compromise and they pick up the check at the police headquarters six months of the year? "Of course, if the Councilmen were to receive your support, they might see some realism and fairness in this proposal."

Absurd? Of course it is! But not quite as absurd when you consider the statement by Martin Lang, supervisor of Southampton Town, upon passage of last year's P.B.A. contract with the town. "The contract provides for the Town to pay for a chauffeur to pick up the officer coming on duty in his skivies at the Town line, dress him in blues at our expense, so he can do us a favor and work 203, eight hour shifts," Lang said.

Carey acted as a statesman in rejecting the P.B.A. bill that would have allowed the unions to buy politicians.

And why not?

## Why Is LILCO Afraid?

There have been hundreds, probably thousands of inspections during construction of LILCO's Shoreham nuclear power plant. They have been conducted by LILCO, by the engineering firm hired by LILCO and by the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, a regulatory body that people have come to believe, operates in the best interest of the utility, rather than the best interest of the people it is supposed to serve.

The Shoreham plant is less than a year away from going on line. Grave concerns have been raised about its ability to operate in a safe manner. Some of these doubts have been raised by construction workers who were on site and witnessed slipshod

construction. Although these accusers often would not give their names, they raised doubt and created fear amongst the public.

The project has been subject to huge cost over-runs, some caused by the interveners' demands, others by union featherbedding, and even more by a lack of true management by LILCO.

The county wants to conduct a total and thorough investigation of the construction quality and safety of this plant. This is not unreasonable, considering the wide-spread fears and the lack of faith residents have in the management of LILCO. County officials, estimating inspections will cost \$3 million, want LILCO to fund

the inspection. But LILCO refuses.

LILCO has expressed a willingness to allow an inspection of the features they deem important, if the county is willing to drop some of the safety objections it wants met before the plan is allowed to go on line. This is ludicrous! Safety and peace of mind are not negotiable issues.

We would think a confident LILCO would welcome an independent verification of the safety of the nuclear plant. To have outside engineers and outside experts give an unequivocal endorsement of the plant's safety would go a long way toward instilling confidence on the part of the public, and rebutting that opposition to the plant which is based upon pure emotionalism. LILCO's stonewall attitude and arrogant refusal only serves to raise more questions about the safety of the plant.

LILCO's refusal can only breed more fear in the minds of the public which is now beginning to ask more and more about safety measures at Shoreham, and about evacuation procedures. The public has lost confidence in LILCO and its management, and even seasoned journalists have found LILCO's public relations efforts to be amateurishly amusing. LILCO's claims of safety without basis of fact (and, if they have their way without inspection) would be laughable if it were not for

the fact that we are dealing with such a serious and potentially devastating matter.

The county must conduct a total and thorough investigation. The best of experts, free of LILCO's influence or pressure by the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, must be brought in. This county has spent millions of dollars on waste and needless projects. Spending three million on Shoreham, in the safety of Suffolk residents, could turn out to be the best investment ever made. It would be an investment in the future of Suffolk County itself, for if the inspection reveals a fault or error that would otherwise have gone undetected, it would prevent Suffolk from becoming a wasteland, unable to be inhabited for years to come.

As we all know, LILCO's public relations people have long used as their main defense the argument "There has never been an accident of any magnitude at a nuclear power plant." They used this argument right up to Three Mile Island, and have used it since, claiming no lives were lost or public harm has resulted. But the true facts of Three Mile Island in terms of human suffering are not yet fully known. And the plant remains inoperative, still a potential threat.

The LILCO management be damned! Let's get on with the county investigation.

And why not?

## The Right To Use One's Property

Every once in a while a glaring example of bureaucratic interference of one's right to use his own property for proper purposes comes to light.

The Jackson brothers of Hampton Bays own the point of land on the south-east side of the Shinnecock Canal. On the eastern portion they operate a large, well-run marina which offers complete facilities for resident recreational boats owned by both residents and transients, and to the Shinnecock commercial fishing fleet.

The business is family-owned and run. Three generations of Jacksons' operate the facility, not only as managers, but as workers. The marina has been subject to numerous improvements and has earned an excellent reputation.

On the south side of the Jackson property, there is approximately 1,200 feet of waterfront. They have made application to convert this water front to docking facilities for both pleasure and commercial craft. The property is zoned commercial and marina operations are allowed under the law.

There is a tremendous growing need for new berthing facilities both for commercial and pleasure boats to accommodate the increased number of boats being put into the water each year.

The Jackson family seeks to help meet this need with their application to expand their marina. As they are dealing with wetlands, they have had to file numerous permits with an unusual amount of agencies. Many have already given their approval, as the logic for the proposition and the planned use falls into all good planning guidelines.

A group of Southampton trustees, predominately comprised of baymen, are opposing this project, however. They claim that part of the area to be utilized will have to be dredged, and this will interfere with the shellfish growth in the marina area. The particular area in question is rarely, if ever, worked by commercial baymen, and seldom worked by recreational shellfishermen because there are few clams there.

The area the Jacksons need to dredge, when viewed in context of the entire bay, is minute. The economics of what little shellfish might even be brought out of this little area, even if it was productive, does not compare with the economics of the potential income brought into the area by the number of new boats that would be berthed there.

There are many reasons why this project is being blocked by the baymen. Some are alleged to be petty jealousies going back over generations of family feuds. At the core of it, we do believe though, is the feeling that some baymen want to limit the number of boats on the bay, particularly the pleasure craft. We can understand their reluctance to want to share God's-given beauty and natural assets, but that is pure selfishness and not a logical reason for opposing an economically viable, needed service. One that will not only enrich its owners, but the community it serves.

Jackson's application should be granted based on its sound planning, its environmental compatibility, and best use of the area.

And why not?

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## The Kids Will Be The Winners

President Reagan last Thursday announced his proposal for tuition tax credits for parents whose children are attending private and parochial schools. If his proposal becomes law, the kids in America will be the big beneficiaries.

Tuition tax credits will encourage vitally needed competition between school systems. Such competition is sadly lacking today. School systems will be pushed for productivity and excellence whether they be in the public or in the private field because there will be competition for these tax credits.

Real estate taxpayers will also get a big break as more students are enrolled in private and parochial schools. There will be fewer students going to public schools. The need for real estate taxes will be reduced. Here on Long Island, parochial and private schools educate a student for under \$800 each. The cost of offering the same, mandated education in public schools averages approximately \$4,000 per student. Each student enrolled in a private school should reduce the local real estate tax burden by \$4,000 per student.

In effect, what Reagan is proposing is a trade-off of \$500 in federal tax credits for \$4,000 in relief in local real estate taxes. Reagan's proposal will meet fierce, vicious opposition from the public education block. The teachers' unions, which are the strongest in the nation, will oppose his move. It will make the system, which they are teaching in, accountable for its productivity, its educational excellence and reduce the number of unconsciously high positions for the union members.

You can count on their opposition

## Jails Are Good Neighbors

We have lived within the shadow of the Suffolk County jail for a good part of our life. Only twice in our memory do we recall a problem with an inmate breaking out. We have less fear of the people who are inside than we do of the people who are on the outside.

A jail, in fact, could be a darn good neighbor. With it you have an abundance of police in the area, it provides jobs, and improves the local economy. Even though this is fact, the location of a jail in a new community is often emotionally protested.

Sheriff John Finnerty has proposed an adjunct jail at the Pilgrim State Psychiatric Center to help alleviate the overcrowding in the Riverhead facility. Finnerty argued the state facility could be converted at a minimum cost, and would be ideally suited to house those who are being processed for the Hauppauge courts. Transportation cost savings could almost pay for the conversion. They could be made secure and habitable in a relatively short period of time.

Unfortunately, Finnerty's proposal met with opposition from the residents who surround the Pilgrim

being bigoted and filled with anti-religious rhetoric. You can expect them to argue that the Pope, the guru, and the high priests of all kinds of exotic religions will be running the classrooms. They'll argue that all students are entitled to an equal education and that some students should not have the advantage of private school education even though it may be cheaper and better.

Parents of private and parochial school students today, and the organizations that sponsor these schools, are shouldering the entire burden. They have argued effectively that it is not right for them to be taxed for the support of public schools, but not receive any relief or funding for the schools of their choice.

The Constitution dictates that we must have a separation of church and state here in the United States. Direct funding from taxes has been ruled illegal, but tax credits to parents for the purpose of education would eliminate the church-state argument, and bring equity to a very inequitable situation.

The most important aspect of this proposal is the competition that would be fostered in the educational field. Children of all religions, all nationalities will benefit, and so will the taxpayers who will have less of a burden to fund if more students are enrolled in private and parochial schools.

We encourage you to write to President Reagan, telling him of your support. Write also to your Congressman and your federal senator requesting their support of the enactment of this legislation.

And why not?

State Psychiatric Hospital. As a result, the proposal was put on hold.

This past week, the chairman of the Correctional Committee warned Suffolk County that their time for solving their jail overcrowding problem is running out. Even though Suffolk County has contracted with the Erie County Jail to house excess prisoners, the Suffolk County jail in

Riverhead currently is operating at close to twice its planned capacity.

According to Finnerty, prisoners are sleeping in corridors, the infirmary and in the chapel. All space is being used. He fears for his guards' safety.

Those prisoners awaiting trial are entitled to reasonable housing. Those who have been convicted, as far as we are concerned, can be locked in a six by six cell and throw the key away.

The current conditions are dangerous and potentially explosive. The creation of a jail at Pilgrim State makes logical sense, and even on a temporary basis, would alleviate some of the problems. County Executive Cohalan has been very

sensitive to the community desires and has gone out of his way to avoid having a county installation created in an area opposed by the local community. Cohalan does have an obligation, however, to also take into consideration the needs of the whole county.

We recommend that the County Executive personally go into the Pilgrim State area and explain to the residents the advantages of having a jail, a secure facility on the outskirts of their community. Cohalan is a master salesman, he should be able to sell a good idea. Finnerty's idea is a good one.

And why not?

## The Luxury Of The Lame Duck

In announcing that he would not be a candidate for re-election this year, Governor Carey became what is commonly called a lame duck. Lame ducks in the past, have abdicated their responsibilities and power. Carey surprisingly has seized on the opportunity to end his term in brilliance.

This is an election year, and traditionally in election years the Legislature and the Executive's Office pass a budget filled with goodies designed to buy votes. The Legislature passed this kind of budget. Carey, in an act of courage, vetoed almost a billion dollars in individual items that had been approved by the Legislature.

Items ran from the ridiculous to legitimate, but in total what he has done is thrown the ball back to the

leadership of the Assembly and Senate and said, "Hey boys!, we are not going to abuse the residents of New York State this year. We are not going to spend them into debt and have to raise taxes next year."

The big beneficiary from Carey's move could be the Assembly Minority Leader James Emory who is a gubernatorial candidate himself. If Emory plays his cards right, and is able to hold his troops in line, he could help Carey keep next year's taxes down and have a heck of a platform to go to the public with.

Emory's character as well as his ability will be put to a grave test. Will he be a politician, a public servant or an effective compromise between the two?

We will know shortly, and why not?

## Beat Ma Bell

Ma Bell recently shoved through your favorite agency, the Public Service Commission, an increase of 7 per cent in the cost of your phone service. This went into effect recently.

It won't do you any good to protest this increase to your legislators. To protest to the Public Service Commission, as we all know, would be futile for they appear to be deaf and dumb when it comes to consumers. There is a way, though, you can protest effectively and beat the old lady at her own game.

The cost of renting the basic dial telephone you have in your home is being increased from \$1.85 to \$2.90 per month. A whopping 56 per cent increase. Most people have two or three phones in their homes. The monthly rental on the basic black dial

telephone, under the new rate plan, comes to almost \$35 per year.

You can buy a brand new, good quality telephone with all kinds of modern features from \$15 to \$50. A basic black telephone can be bought by mail order for under \$15. Radio Shack, as well as most electronic stores, sell telephones. These phones, from our experience, last without service just as long as the telephone company's equipment does. It's plain simple economics: for the price of four or five months rental from Ma Bell, you can own your own equipment which is legal to install and which will last indefinitely.

Here at Suffolk Life, almost ten years ago, we installed a complete Executive phone system. The price of the system in those days was the equivalent of 17 months' rental charge for half of the system from the telephone company. Over the years, we have saved close to \$20,000 by owning our own system: service has been excellent and affordable.

No business, no municipal office, should rent when they can save substantially by owning. Homeowners either have money to burn or don't give a darn if they continue to rent their phones from the phone company when, for as little as five months' rental fee, they can own comparable equipment.

Beat the old lady, buy your own equipment and tell her to take her high priced phones, for which she got P.S.C. approval to increase rental rates by 56 per cent, and keep 'em. And why not?

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## Pike's Better Column

In the Town of Riverhead there has been a rivalry between three distinguished gentlemen, a lawyer, an insurance broker and our former Congressman, Otis Pike. The three have vied over their life-time for the title of the "cheapest man on Eastern Long Island." It's been pretty much of a dead heat.

During his tenure as Congressman, Pike drove around in a beatup old car, lived on derelict boats and feverishly fought spending a nickle more of his own money than he had to. As a Congressman, there were times when he fought with as much vigor over spending our money. Other times he went along with the crowd, giving here so he could take there. Pike retired three years ago, settled back with his pension, the fragments of a once lucrative law practice and became a syndicated columnist. Pike had earned an excellent reputation as a writer during his tenure in Congress. His weekly columns were filled with personal bits, anecdotes that made the serious subject matter of running the federal government enjoyable reading.

Since Pike has been syndicated, many of his columns are dry. They seem to lack Pike's personal touch or involvement. But this past week, Pike wrote a column that was a gem, particularly considering his passion for holding onto his own bucks.

He took Congress to task for establishing a system that gives him and all other Congressmen automatic, lucrative raises under the "Entitlement Acts." Pike points out that when he became a Congressman

he received \$22,500 per year for being at your service, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Now, for not being at your service at all, he receives \$33,360. This past April 1, which Pike notes was April Fool's Day, he received a raise of 8.7 per cent, \$2904, to help the poor retired Congressman maintain his standard of living.

He ends his column by saying to Congress, "I am no saint, only a needler. Here I am, Congress, entitled to more money than I have earned, deserve or need. Come get me, Do your country a favor."

We imagine his column gladdened the heart of President Reagan, because it is such entitlements that he has been trying to control. Reagan does not want the people of the United States to pay as much in taxes to their government, as Congress would have them spend.

At the same time, we imagine "Tinker Toy" Tommie Downey, the Liberal Congressman from the Second District, did not find much to laugh about in Pike's column. He has been one of the more vocal opponents to reducing entitlements. According to Tinker Toy Tommie, it's the poor reductions in entitlements will effect. Big, bad President Reagan, in his plan to reduce entitlements likes to hurt the poor, he preaches.

What Downey fails to say is there are some very rich people who are getting richer from entitlements, as there are some very frugal ex-Congressmen.

As Pike said, "Congress, do your country a favor."

And why not?

## H.E.A.P. of Abuse

H.E.A.P. stands for Home Energy Assistance Program. A federal program administered by the state and the county, it was created to assist welfare recipients and other low income families meet increased heating costs. Over \$3.5 million was distributed in Suffolk County under this program this year, but not just for heat.

H.E.A.P. is an entitlement program. It's the kind of program that liberal Congressman "Tinker Toy" Tom Downey points to as an example of what President wants to

cut back or cut out. Downey cries such action hurts the poor.

Suffolk Life received a letter recently from a reader who complained that under this program, welfare recipients are, in effect, double dipping. He claimed, and it has been verified, that Social Services, in most cases, already pays for heating costs in welfare rental checks. Sending heat assistance aid under H.E.A.P. when heating costs are already paid by welfare is a prime example of the waste which is rampant in such programs.

H.E.A.P. offers this "bonus" of \$140 for a single family residence, while larger families receive more. The welfare department explains this money is used not only for heat, but for heat-related items such as blankets, clothing and food, under state guidelines. Of course there are no vouchers or verification to support how the funds are used. They could be, and undoubtedly are, used for anything the welfare folks choose to spend them on. The funds are sent out automatically to those on welfare, and via application by those who are marginal, with incomes just above the poverty level.

Certainly there are those who could, and should, benefit from such a program. Unfortunately, however, under the current system those that don't need get, and those that do don't. An example came in a recent letter from an East Hampton Suffolk Life reader responding to an article about H.E.A.P.: "All those millions of dollars and a senior citizen on social security has to send her oil man \$50 a month out of her check all year long to pay for her winter oil. Yes, that's me. I sent an application to H.E.A.P. the first week in February and haven't heard a word from them since. The first time I ever ask for a little help because I had such a tough time this winter. I'm glad it wasn't food money I was waiting for, I'd be starved to death by this time...."

H.E.A.P. is the kind of program that wastes more funds than it allocates to meet humanitarian purposes, and has helped run our federal government into the red. It's

the kind of program President Reagan has been advocating reducing to a level that would provide legitimate heating assistance for legitimate people in need.

But Downey skims over the problem of waste. He takes no stand against the expenditure of bonus funds while those in need go without. Instead, he chooses to accuse the President of "hurting the poor" rather than support the paring down of programs to meet only very real needs.

The funds for these H.E.A.P. bonus checks come from two possible sources: Your taxes, or from funds borrowed by the federal government, borrowing which has caused the government to run in the red. You or your children will have to pay back those borrowed funds.

President Reagan has been painted as a cold-hearted, insensitive man by liberal congressmen such as Downey. Downey has used proposed cutbacks in programs such as H.E.A.P. as examples of how the poor are being hurt by the President. Yet, after you explore these cutbacks, you find Reagan is not hurting the poor, he's only trying to achieve justice, fairness and equity for the working taxpayers in this country.

We encourage you to write to President Reagan, support his proposed cutbacks in abusive programs such as H.E.A.P. and tell Downey to get in tune with middle America, for it's your tax dollars he wants to continue abusing and giving away.

And why not?

## Strap Hangers Pay Your Own Way

What is so sacred about mass transportation? Why should we, as suburban-rural taxpayers, who provide our own transportation, have to support and subsidize those who have the luxury of having a rail, bus or subway at their disposal? Why are the suburbs forced to subsidize mass transportation which benefits, primarily, the city and its urban suburbs?

Last year, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority became the beneficiary of an additional 1/4 per cent in sales taxes on everything we spend here in Suffolk County. The funds were designated to be used for improvements in the city's buses, subways and for their operation. The law that inacted this has been ruled illegal.

Governor Carey, this past week, announced he is seeking additional taxes on businesses for further subsidization of the M.T.A. A tax on business is nothing more than a hidden consumer tax. Every tax a business pays, eventually, finds its way into the price that consumers are charged. All this is being done to hold down the subways, buses and rail fares.

Proponents of Carey's proposal argue that without these subsidies, fares would have to be raised up to \$1 per ride. Tough! These same proponents, including Carey, never uttered a word of protest when gasoline went from under 50 cents a gallon up to \$1.50. We did not hear them cry in anguish when the tolls on

bridges and tunnels were raised from 50 cents to 75 cents to, just recently, \$1.25.

A car in the suburbs, particularly the rural suburbs, is of more importance than a subway or bus is in the city. Most of us have to drive 15 to 20 miles to go to work. The nearest food store is several miles from home, our churches and hospitals likewise. In the city, jobs are usually just blocks away from your residence. Food and convenience stores are within walking distance. A few blocks and you are at a hospital or church.

Average incomes in the city exceed those in the rural suburbs. Why should the less affluent residents of the suburbs who, according to Mayor Koch, lead a sterile life, and have to clothe themselves in gingham dress from Sears and Roebuck catalogs, have to be taxed to support the commutation requirements of the fashionably dressed strap hangers and culturally advantaged cliff dwellers?

The fares charged by the M.T.A. should be in line with its true operating cost. The capital equipment and facilities should be financed through bonds which are paid back through user fees. If there ever was an issue that should unite the suburbs in total opposition, it should be subsidized transportation fares. Protest to your legislator now! Let him know your feelings or your country bumkins will be paying more so the metro elitest can pay less.

And why not?

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