

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Public Service Commission Must Be Disbanded

The Public Service Commission for the State of New York is supposed to be the regulatory agency that keeps the monopolistic utilities in line. They are charged with protecting the consumer from abuse and unconscionable rates that could be imposed upon the public by utilities.

The Public Service Commission has become the pawn of the utilities. It is not responsive or answerable to the people it serves. The Public Service Commission is under the jurisdiction of the Governor, the Assembly and the State Legislature. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature.

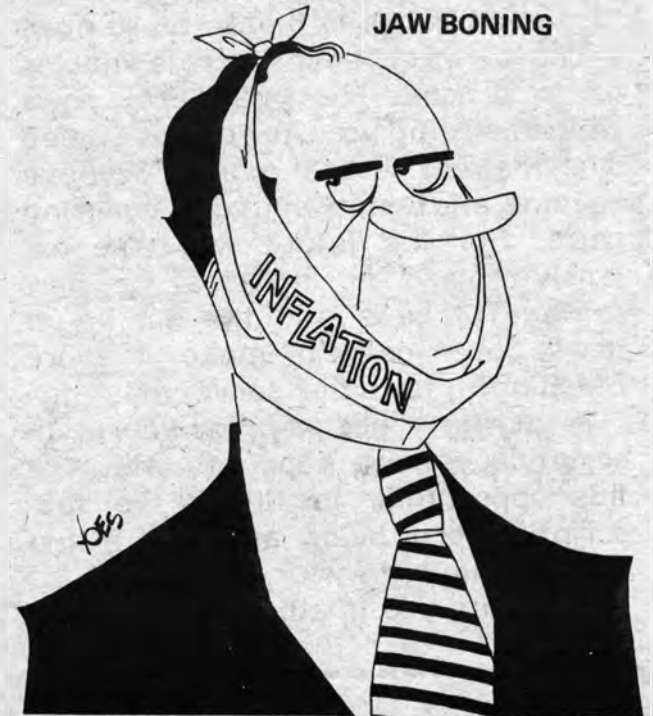
Whereas the Public Service Commission has indicated by its past actions that it is totally sympathetic to the utilities and has an almost deaf ear for the pleas of the public, we call upon the Governor and the State Legislature to disband the Public Service Commission as it is presently composed and replace it with an organization that will protect the public.

A typical example of the abuse and the assinine thinking of the Public Service Commission is exemplified by last week's statement by Public

Service Examiner, Stewart Boschwitz. He recommended that all electric homes be allowed to pay only half the fuel adjustment charges in effect for all other electric customers. The savings that would benefit all electric customers would be required to be made up by those homeowners who do not have all-electric homes.

These homeowners, the majority of homeowners, who heat their homes with oil or cook with gas have already had to pay their suppliers double what they were paying last year for these commodities. They have, along with everyone else, had to pay the exorbitant electric rates plus the fuel adjustment, and now the Public Service Commission is saying to them -- you must also pay for part of the cost of electricity for those people who were (unfortunately) conned by the electric companies into converting their houses to all-electric.

If the Public Service Commission cared at all about the public, they would have said to the electric companies -- you, LILCO, Con Edison and others, must pay for half of the fuel adjustment for all electric customers out of the company's dividends. For it is the electric companies that caused this problem.



JAW BONING

Suffolk Life will only support those candidates for state office in this coming election who are absolutely pledged to dismantling and disbanding the Public Service Commission as it now is structured and staffed and replacing it with people who believe that the public has some rights, too.

We encourage you, the voter, to find out how each candidate stands on this issue and to join us in supporting only those who will make this a reality. And why not?

Full Disclosure Will Restore Citizen Confidence

Judith Hope, Supervisor of East Hampton Township, at Friday's Town Board meeting, called for an extensive full disclosure of all financial holdings of all Town Board members. Not only of the members, but also of the husbands and wives and children of these members.

The reason for this is quite obvious. Suffolk County, as well as the nation, has been shattered and shaken by political scandals involving office holders enriching themselves by using the knowledge and position of their offices.

We wish things could be different; we wish the public could have absolute faith in all office holders. Unfortunately, experience has shown that this cannot be a reality in the '70's.

Today people from all walks of life look upon public office holders as second-class crooks. Honest politicians and elected officials who do not deserve this are now caught up in the groundswell because of the actions of those who have been less ethical and

who have been exposed.

Public disclosure of all financial holdings, income and dealings by public figures will at least give the public a clear-cut look at where each of these people start and if there are any abnormal changes in their income over their term of office. It also will show their personal interest in corporations coming before their various branches of government for variances, changes of zoning or other special favors.

Full disclosure will let it all hang out and the public can make up its own mind about the ethics of the office holder.

Those office holders who have nothing to hide have nothing to fear. Those who have something to fear can resign. Those public officials who feel that they have a right to be a totally private individual, and the public has no right to know their financial background can exercise that right and also resign.

We hope that other branches of government besides East Hampton

Town will take a cold, hard look at this proposal and will enact laws mandating that public officials fully disclose not only their own, but their family's financial dealings. And why not?

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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John McKay - General Manager	Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

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Rockefeller - The Worst Possible Choice

Of all the men President Ford could have chosen for Vice-President of the United States of America, in our opinion, he picked absolutely the worst candidate.

During his 15 years as governor of New York State, Rockefeller presented himself as an arrogant, self-seeking politician and nothing more. He was not, as it may seem, a popular choice of the people of New York State, but was a manufactured candidate merchandised in much the same manner as soap powder and dog food is.

He has shown a reckless disregard for the average man, the people who make up the middle class and pay the bills. He is not even consistent in his political philosophy. He ran as a Republican and reacted as a fiery liberal. Then when he sensed a change in the tide, he tried to act as a conservative.

He spent taxpayers' money with utter disregard for their well-being or their ability to pay. He used the governorship only as a stepping stone to reach his personal goal of being President of the United States.

Coming from a background of immense wealth, his ego demanded that he be in a position of ultimate power, the presidency. Rockefeller showed his regard and respect for his party very

vividly by doing everything he could to defeat Goldwater in '64. This was in retaliation for Goldwater getting the Republican nomination for president that year. In '68 when Nixon ran for president, Rockefeller sat on his behind because he wanted the nomination but was again denied it by Republicans throughout the country. When he resigned in mid-term, abandoning his responsibilities as governor, many people felt he set up Assembly Speaker Perry Duryea to guarantee that Duryea would not be in a position to win the Republican nomination for governor of New York State.

These are well-known political corpses, and there are probably thousands of other lesser knowns stacked up along the way who got in Rockefeller's path.

President Ford, in his first few days of office, did much to accomplish a feeling of openness, warmth and trust. It appeared he was well on his way to healing the scars of Watergate borne by the American people. His low-key personality and willingness to be honest with the American public was what was needed. Rockefeller by contrast, in a spur-of-the-moment press conference after Ford's announcement, projected an aura of arrogance similar to Nixon's Watergate attitude. He evaded repor-

ters' questions, was insulting and obnoxious.

The people of the United States do not need an arrogant Vice-President who considers himself above the people. We need someone who is more concerned about us than himself. We need a Vice-President who is aware of our everyday problems and of how hard it is for the middle class family to just survive.

As history has shown us, three Vice Presidents in 30 years succeeded to the presidency, it is in the realm of possibility that Rockefeller could end up being our President. We do not want Rockefeller as President, Vice-President, or in any other position of representation of the people.

We ask our congressmen and our senators to deny him confirmation and request that the President submit other candidates for this position. We encourage you to send your feelings to your representatives, as they possess the votes which can deny this man the office.

For your convenience we have printed a coupon which we urge you to send to your representatives. We encourage you to make reprints of this coupon. Send it to your friends and neighbors in other parts of our country. Ask them to do likewise.

A grassroots groundswell against Rockefeller can lead Congress to deny approval and force the President to offer other names for consideration. Send off your coupon today. And why not?

To: Congressman Otis G. Pike
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman James R. Grover, Jr.
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator James Buckley
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Jacob Javits
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

How To Measure Their Concern

This November we will elect both state and federal legislators. The cost of energy, both for our cars and our homes, will be an issue. We think the voters should know how our present legislators acted on our behalf during the past year on this matter.

All legislators, both the state and

federal, had a direct opportunity to at least ease the burden of these rapidly rising costs. By instituting or supporting legislation they could have reduced the burden of these rising costs by reducing taxes on petroleum and energy products.

As the cost of gasoline, oil, and electricity went up, the state and the federal governments' take was increased, due to the excise taxes and sales taxes they levy against petroleum products.

The state government could have alleviated part of the hardship by reducing or eliminating sales taxes on gas, oil, and electricity. On the federal level they could have eliminated or reduced the excise taxes that are placed on motor fuels.

If your congressmen, your senator, state senator, or state assemblyman did not introduce or did not vote for such a measure, in our book he did nothing to help you, the tax payer. We recommend strongly you return this favor by voting against him. It's you he's there to represent. And why not?

I request that you vote NO on the confirmation of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President of the United States of America.

Name _____

Address _____

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