

The Only Question

The only question the Suffolk County Legislature will answer next Tuesday, when they vote on a proposed referendum on the legislature's abolition, is whether they really believe in democracy.

All the rhetoric aside, the legislators will decide individually whether they have confidence in you as citizens to vote intelligently. They will decide whether they will give you, or deny you, this right to vote.

In making this decision, they will determine individually whether they feel they know better than you do what is good for you. There really is no other question that will be decided at Tuesday's meeting.

The pros and cons for or against a weighted Board of Supervisors or the

county legislature will go on until this issue is put to referendum.

We can fully expect those, who are opposed to changing the legislature to a weighted Board of Supervisors, will take the ample opportunity they have between now and November to campaign forcefully and dynamically to sell and to educate you, the voters, on the merits of retaining this system.

At the same time, we expect those who are in favor of returning to a weighted Board of Supervisors to do likewise.

To aid in this endeavor, Suffolk Life pledges to its readers, and, to those who will vote this coming Tuesday, that we will present both sides of this issue to our nearly half million readers, fairly and equally.

We have had eight years to study how the legislature works. We have had 200 years to study how the Board of Supervisors works.

The League of Women Voters President, Mallory Leoniak, stated at a public debate last Thursday, the League has prepared studies on the feasibility of a legislature that they have this information ready for dissemination. Yet, she said the League is reluctant to have a vote at this time because they feel that they will not have time to educate the public.

When loosely translated, they do not feel that these studies indicate forcefully enough or conclusively enough that the legislature is the best form of government.

When they speak of education, they really mean their sales ability and their ability to promote their particular line of thinking.

Suffolk Life will publish this coming Sunday a score card containing the names and districts of each legislator.

It will contain columns that will be headed "voted in favor of the people" and a subsequent column entitled, "voted against the people."

We encourage you to follow the voting and to check off how the individual legislators voted.

Their vote on this issue is an absolute determination whether they

consider themselves a representative of the people and whether they have the belief in the people of Suffolk County.

The vote will be a further test of their belief in the democratic system of government by and for the people.

We can't think of a clearer cut issue to determine the quality and the philosophy of the public officials that we have representing us on the Suffolk County Legislature.

We encourage every resident to turn out in force to speak and implore the legislature to give you an opportunity to determine the type and quality of government you want representing you.

In the meantime, between now and next Tuesday, we encourage you to phone your legislator and make your views known.

If you are of the same political faith as your legislator, call your committeeman and your town leaders and express to them your feelings.

Tell them in no uncertain terms that you, as a free American living in a democracy, have a right to determine the type of government you wish to be governed by.

Tell them you want this opportunity; and you want your legislator to vote "yes", on the resolution that will put to referendum this coming November. And why not?

Free Contraceptives for Kids?

Last week's Suffolk Life carried a feature article on the endeavors of the County Health Department, Planned Parenthood, and the Economic Opportunity Council to make contraceptive devices available to young people.

Philosophically, I am opposed to this move because I believe the availability will have a tendency to make children more promiscuous. But realistically, a kid, who has made up his or her mind to try sex, is going to do it. There isn't a darn thing that anyone of us can do to stop it.

Last night, I passed a young girl on the street, who I imagine could not have been more than 12 years old. She was talking to a couple of disheveled youths who couldn't have been 13. Talking is probably the wrong word. She was bragging.

The conversation went like this. "Hey! just found out I'm pregnant. Do you want to know what I am going to do about it? Do it more, I've got nothing to lose now."

The conversation did not quite go that way, as I had to change a few of the words to relate the conversation in a family newspaper.

Let's face it, it is a fact of life. Children, not even in their teens, are capable of becoming pregnant. We all know, emotionally, they are not ready to handle either the act or the

result.

These kids have parents, who haven't set a foundation through word or example on which the kids can make a rational decision. Once they have become pregnant, they are left with three alternatives: 1. Have the baby, put it up for adoption; 2. Have the baby and be a mother before they are a teenager; or 3. Have an abortion.

I personally and unequivocally am opposed to abortion. I do not feel I have the right to interfere with the life of someone else.

A girl in her early teens is neither emotionally, physically or financially equipped to raise a child. Yet more and more girls who have become pregnant at this early age are opting to keep the baby.

The boys who get the girls pregnant themselves are nothing more than children who totally lack the responsibility or even give a damn whether the girl becomes pregnant.

I find making contraceptives readily available to kids distasteful, but when left with the cold hard facts, that ignoring the problem creates a far worse situation, I have to support this move.

Because of this, we must support the readily, accessible and uncomplicated dissemination of birth control devices. And why not?

Ban the legislature

We, the undersigned, Suffolk County residents, request the county legislature to pass a resolution to hold a referendum of whether the county legislature should be replaced by the Board of Supervisors with a weighted vote.

Name

Address

Form with multiple lines for signing names and addresses.

Send to: Ban the Legislature, Suffolk Life, Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977

SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS

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Survey Indicates 90 Per Cent for Under \$10.00

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Some weeks back, we ran a survey in Suffolk Life asking our readers how much they wanted their police to be paid per hour, including all fringe benefits.

The reason for the survey was the callous remark by a police negotiator to one of the East End supervisors. He said, "people don't know what they are paying the cops and don't care anyway, so what are you so upset about?"

Obviously, from the returns that came in, the negotiator was right in his first premise, people do not know what they are paying the police officers in Suffolk.

Currently, the average per hour rate of all East End departments, even for a starting officer far exceeds the \$10 per hour when fringes are included. Many are making \$20 or \$30 per hour and more.

The cops argued this is not true. They like to use their net take home pay and base it on an annual basis rather than on an hourly wage.

Police currently receive fringe benefits that dollar for dollar nearly match their cash pay. The police budget is the single highest item in all East End towns' operating cost.

At one time, police were underpaid. In an attempt to create equality with other workers within the community, our town boards gave them fringe benefits instead of cash. Twenty

years retirement, at half pay became standard. Elaborate health and dental and insurance programs are commonplace.

As our forces became more organized and unionized, they become more militant in their demands. They wanted parity with Suffolk and Nassau County Police, whose departments are the highest paid in the country. Again, instead of granting these men money, they borrowed against tomorrow and granted up to 180 days sick leave, up to six weeks vacation, personal days and other fringes that were far in excess of the norm.

They increased the salaries to a point where police make between \$17,000 to \$40,000 a year. Broken down on an hourly basis, rates run from \$10 to \$40 per hour.

Comparing the value of police to salaries received is not an easy task. Police are not only asked to protect us from the criminal element, but also have to enter highly charged emotional family arguments and disputes. They have got to be good samaritans and tough guys at the same time. It is not an easy road for anyone to hoe.

Most have families who live in our communities and actively participate in making them a better place to live.

In numerous discussions we have had with the police, we have found

they have the same trouble surviving as the rest of us.

There is not enough money left over from what they take home to meet the current expenses of the day.

Many work a second job. Many of their wives are also employed. This does not eliminate the real crisis and the taxpayers just cannot afford to pay any more. The obvious solution is for the police to really look at the package of fringe benefits they are receiving.

Figure out what are pure luxuries they don't need and trade them off for cash in their paycheck.

Regardless of how we pay our police, all cash, half cash and half fringes or all fringes, the final cost hits the taxpayers.

We all want more. We all feel we are worth more than we are getting paid. In business it's fairly easy to see where the limit is.

When costs exceed the income there is no profit and no reason for the business to continue. Management

and labor jointly must come to an understanding, and usually do.

A business continues with a profit rewarding the investors. Labor receives the maximum within the formula that can be funded through the operation.

In government, it is not quite so easy. The income is coming from many sources and it's harder to determine when enough is enough.

The signs are clear though, we have reached the breaking point. It is estimated over 15 per cent of the homes here are for sale. The norm is five to seven per cent. Banks are running an unprecedented percentage of past due mortgages.

Residential real estate values in local towns have dropped by as much as 50 per cent in the last five years.

We believe the police can serve their interests better if they decide to give up some of the less important benefits in return for more cash in their pockets. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'I am with the Silent Majority'

Dear Editor:

Your front page article on 7-19-78 by Kevin McCoy, "Birth Control for Local Kids", must be the most irresponsible piece of journalism I have ever read in the Suffolk Life.

You are, in fact, adding to the problem we already have with teenage promiscuity. In no way do I accept the estimate that almost 100 per cent of teenagers are sexually active. By putting a figure like that you certainly will ADD to the peer pressure which the majority of teenagers try to resist.

There has always been a problem with teenage promiscuity, and, yes, there is no question that it is on the increase. However, the increase has occurred only since T.V., the movies, newspapers, magazines, Planned Parenthood and Family Planning have been promoting sex, and the new immorality, as being quite normal, and permissible.

I do not have my head in the ground. I have been working with kids for a number of years. Yes, there is an increase. However, you do a grave disservice to the many, many teenagers who are living MORAL lives within Judeo-Christian guidelines.

It seems that the only motive of these agencies has been to teach teenagers how not to get pregnant. I have the reading material

that is handed out by Family Planning through the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, and, in no way, do they even attempt to promote morality.

Your paper has always made a lot of noise about taxes. I wonder do your readers realize that its their tax dollars that are being used to promote teenage sexual activity. I may be indeed part of Mr. Baird's "Vocal Minority", but I firmly believe that I am also with the Silent Majority.

Sincerely,
Ken Diem
Farmingville

'What is a policeman worth?'

Dear Editor:

As a police officer's mother, (who is on total disability in the line of duty) my answer is that there could never be a limited amount for those who risk their lives everyday. Ask this question to the mothers and wives of those killed in the line of duty, not to those whose sons or husbands have white collar jobs. This survey is degrading and from now on anytime Suffolk Life is delivered to my home, I will throw it in the trashcan where it belongs. I am proud of our police force and I am proud that my son, officer David DeSantis is a member of the force.

Are you proud being a reporter? What have you accomplished? What were your thoughts when those two policemen were killed back some months ago. My son's answer to this was "They were doing their duty". Now tell me what a policeman is worth?

Mrs. DeSantis

Impact of Farmland Preservation

Although it should be of grave concern and importance, little has been discussed about the impact farmland preservation will have on real estate taxes.

Allen Smith, Supervisor of Riverhead Town has warned of the impending disaster to local landowners caused by the removal from the tax rolls of massive amounts of farmland through King John's program and the state agri-district.

Smith claims East End residents can look forward to doubling, and in some cases, tripling real estate taxes.

As farmland is taken off the rolls, the void must be made up by the remaining landowners. The burden for paying the farmland taxes will fall on the home and business owners.

Three years ago, Suffolk Life asked for an economical and a tax impact study to Klein's farmland preservation program. Needless to say, it was not forthcoming.

If the residents of Suffolk were made aware of the fact they would be forced to pay a 100-200 per cent increase in their real estate taxes to support this concept, King John knew full well they would reject it. The dishonesty in not making this impact known to the voters is typical of King John and the way he operates.

The similarities between the selling

of the Southwest Sewer District and the farmland preservation program are more than coincidental.

Before Klein is allowed to proceed further, he must be granted the borrowing power by the county legislature. The legislature, itself, should develop its own financial and tax impact study.

Let the legislature know beforehand. Let the public know the price they are going to be asked to pay. The harm that will be caused may far outweigh the nebulous advantages. The time to stop it is now. And why not?

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David J. Willmott, Editor

How will they vote?

Do you have the right to determine the type of government you wish to be governed by? This is the question our 18 Suffolk County Legislators will decide this coming Tuesday, August 8th.

These legislators will vote whether to let you make the choice in a November referendum of continuing a legislative form of government or returning to a weighted board of supervisors.

How they cast their vote will give you a clear-cut indication of what they think of you.

A "yes" vote will indicate their belief in the constitution and in the democratic form of government. It will indicate that they believe in government by the people, of the people, and for the people.

It will reaffirm your right to self-determination. It will also tell you whether your legislator thinks you have the ability, the intelligence, and the integrity to determine the type of

government you wish to be governed, taxed, and regulated by.

The legislators will not be voting on the merits of either system. They will only be voting on giving you, the taxpayer, the final say on the county legislature's future.

This will be the most important vote any one of these legislators will ever cast in their life as an elected official. The people of Suffolk County have adequately demonstrated, through calls, letters and petitions, their desire to be given the right to make this choice.

We cannot see how any of the 18 individuals can, in good conscience, vote "no" on this proposition.

In fact, in voting "no", they will be utilizing the freedoms guaranteed to them under the constitution to deny you yours that are guaranteed under the same constitution. Democracy must be equal for all - elected officials and those who elected them. And why not?

Your presence will be felt

If you believe you should have a right to determine the type of government you live under, make a special effort to take part in it!

Attend this coming Tuesday's Suffolk County Legislature meeting at the County Center in Hauppauge.

Come to this meeting, register to speak, tell the 18 legislators of your feelings why you should be given the right to choose the type of government you want.

Even if you do not desire to speak,

be there. Take part in this important and historical moment in Suffolk's history.

You cannot complain about government unless you take part in it.

This is the greatest opportunity you will ever have to change the course of the future of Suffolk County. The hearing starts at 10 am. The County Center is located on Veterans' Memorial Hwy., just west of the Smithtown Bypass in Hauppauge. We hope to see you there. And why not?



1st L.D.
Denis R. Hurley
369-2400



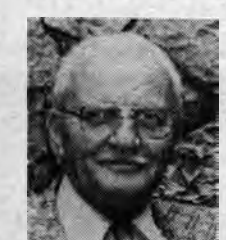
2nd L.D.
John T. Donohue
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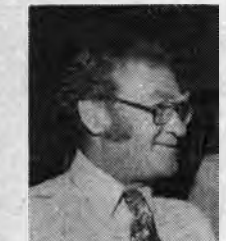
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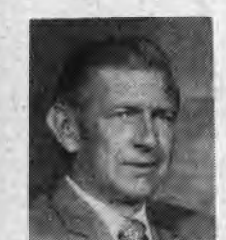
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William C. Richards
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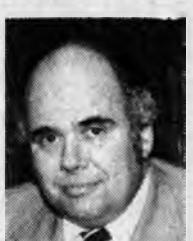
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Towns should take charge

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

In the '60's Suffolk Life was a small weekly newspaper with a pretty ineffectual voice. Regardless, we questioned the wisdom of sewerage Suffolk County. It was obvious the power brokers were out to build a gigantic pork barrel.

Newsday, for reasons best known to itself was editorializing in support of sewerage on a daily basis. The alleged problem that led to the creation of the Southwest Sewer District was contamination of surface wells along the South Shore.

The reason for the contamination was the lack of planning that had allowed the construction of too many homes an acre. In many areas where the Southwest Sewer District is being built, it is not uncommon to find four and six residences located on a single acre. Cesspools are right on top of wells.

We asked then, "Doesn't it make more sense to run municipal water to the affected areas than create a monstrous, expensive sewer district?" As time has proven from

an economical standpoint and from an ecological standpoint, we were right.

Present plans call for the Southwest Sewer District to pump out to sea up to 180 million gallons of water per day. This will quickly deplete Long Island's fresh water reservoirs.

Long Island's primary source of water comes from three large domes which are underground. These domes are replenished from underground rivers flowing from the north and from groundwater that is filtered naturally and seeps back into these domes.

When the domes are filled, natural pressure forces the water upward where it emerges as springs on the surface, or lies in the subsurface in pools. These pools are tapped by homeowners who have their own wells. It is the close-to-surface pools that are being contaminated. The contamination comes from cesspools, which are filled not only with sewage, but chemical compounds we consider modern miracles used in cleaning and

other everyday uses.

Several families in East Patchogue have recently found their wells polluted by these contaminants.

A lawsuit has been brought on their behalf to ban certain chemicals normally used to clean drains and breakdown the fats accumulating in cesspools, preventing liquid from filtering naturally out into the sands.

This suit probably will be a lengthy process as the plaintiffs are large manufacturing corporations, who can and will, put up a strong defense.

The object of the suit is to ban these chemicals from being used. This might be accomplished a lot easier if the trustees of the various towns in Suffolk County used their considerable powers.

Almost all 10 towns have trustees who have the ultimate power to determine and protect the quality of life of the inhabitants. They were granted these basic and fundamental powers under the various colonial patents by the King of England, which specifically gives power to the

trustees to protect life and health, through whatever means they deem necessary.

In many Suffolk towns, the trustees are also the members of the town board, and the town supervisor is the president of the board of trustees.

Acting as trustees they have far more power than they do as board members. If chemicals are contaminating the wells of the people, trustees can order these chemicals banned from use through nothing more than a simple resolution.

Trustees are empowered to act immediately in all concern of the health and welfare of the residents.

It would seem to us the trustees of the various towns could serve the people who they are empowered to look over more expediently and more effectively by using the absolute powers granted to them as trustees.

They could do the job a lot faster than the courts, the county health department or the Dept. of Environmental Control. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'Your advice . . . is absurd'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I have just read your article, "One Vote is enough". I can't believe an intelligent person with a responsibility to his readers could write such undocumented, thoughtless advice.

You bring out some good sound thought provoking ideas. "What is the sense of having a budget vote in the first place. . . ." The Board of Education is elected by the people to serve the community with no monetary compensation. This is very democratic! It has been my experience that every attempt is made to solicit input from the public at regularly scheduled meetings. This group with assistance from the public and a professional staff of educators prepare a meaningful budget for approval by the voters. What could be more democratic than that? If the public does not approve, they have the opportunity to vote these elected people out of office at the next election.

Your suggestion that a re-vote reflect at least a 20 per cent reduction is ridiculous. First of all there is not a 20 per cent difference between a state mandated austerity budget and the original budgets submitted. Are you suggesting that the original budget be padded or inflated like the sticker price of a new car? This is an accepted practice in New York City and look what it has done for them.

The reason I am writing this letter is the next statement in your article; "and it should be put up on a line by line basis where the voters can pick and choose the areas of education they wish to fund or not." This thinking is beyond belief. We already know that the American public prefer baseball, apple pie and Cheverlet. Excuse the pun, even I forgot we were talking about education. There are some thoughtless school districts that have done exactly what you suggest and do you know the most important educational consideration in every district, barring none is transportation. Transportation was followed closely by driver education and athletics. The last priority by the man in the street was supplies and materials. Hopefully our system still allows us to intrust the educational good of the majority to specialists with a far greater

insight than the average layman. You would not think of telling an auto mechanic to replace spark plugs and points without setting up the timing. You would not tell a dentist to do an apico ectomy instead of root canal or tell a doctor what medication to use. Why would you consider voting line by line the educational needs of our children?

Your constant reference in this article and others referring to taxation is the question of "what we can afford". I think if you would

give some honest thought to this question you would have to change the question to, "what do we want to afford"?

In an article done for the Wall Street Journal last week by a professor from M.I.T. statistics were given showing that the average family income has increased 50 per cent over the past six years of which 8 per cent was additional buying power. With color television sets and new car sales at an all time high I would suggest that a pick and

choose education for our children is totally out of character.

In conclusion may I say that your advice to vote "no whether or not you supported the budget on the first vote" is absurd. Fortunately our educational system has not broken down to the point that we can be told to vote against something we are in favor of. And that's why!

Sincerely,
Robert Luther

'Real needs are ignored . . .'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I agree with you on several points of your editorial on Brookhaven's housing problems and their "ostrich-like approach" to them. The failure of communities to act expeditiously at the first sign of decay in their housing stock, as you have pointed out, can bring on controls outside of the control of local government, which is unnecessary.

Brookhaven must move on the encouragement of a program along the same lines as Riverhead has used to obtain Federal

funding for upgrading existing housing. As you point out in your article, upgrading of the properties is not the final answer. The introduction of diverse clientele is suggested, but along with this, is the need for an intense education program to teach people the very basic sense of community pride and leadership in maintaining their communities to insure against further erosion or other pockets of decay. These emerging community leaders will be in the forefront of seeking action from the elected officials in

insuring protection of their property values.

The avoidance of taking on the challenge of code enforcement on housing quality is not unique to Brookhaven. All municipalities who have allowed the continued existence of decaying neighborhoods have done so in large part due to political expediency. "If you don't admit the problem exists, then it doesn't exist to the majority of citizens." The sad thing is, people with real needs are ignored in this "expediency" posture. They include the young marrieds as well as many of the senior citizens who do not necessarily want federally-subsidized housing per se but, rather, a program of low-cost loans to maintain their own homes which they've had for many years.

Also, the need to house existing citizens of Brookhaven who are on the low end of the income scale cannot be dismissed. It must be done, and it can be done in a manner compatible with the goals and objectives of Brookhaven Town in part by rehabilitating some of the structures which have fallen into disrepair.

Following the lead of Riverhead, I'm hoping that the wide readership of your newspaper will lend some support to seeking these federal funds and the necessary action by the town to insure the success of this program.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Junor
Mount Sinai

VOL 18 NO. 50

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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North Fork Patchogue Riverhead Hampton West
Mastic/Moriches Patchogue Medford/Holbrook Sayville Ronkonkoma
Coram/Middle Island Selden/Centerach 3 Village/Port Jefferson Rocky Point

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The rewards of being a good guy

I had lunch with Buzz Schwenk the other day. But it was not with the Buzz Schwenk I know from the past.

Buzz is an honest man. He became involved in politics and the leader of the Suffolk Republican Party because he believed in the American system of government and the philosophy of the Republican party.

Today, Buzz is a bitter man whose smile has been replaced with tight lips and clenched teeth.

His family gave to the Republican party both financially and physically. He himself gave up a lucrative executive position in a bank to take a non-salaried position as County Leader. The party was badly torn apart and had been demoralized through corruption.

Schwenk put literally everything he had into the position. He gave the party his time, his executive abilities, his personality and even put himself in financial jeopardy by personally guaranteeing party loans. He signed notes for over a quarter of a million dollars and to collateralize these notes he put up his home and other business properties he owned here in Suffolk County as security.

Schwenk and I have differed on many occasions. There were some candidates he was running that were horrendous but it was his job to sell them the best he could. Looking at the record, you would have to say that based strictly on the number of candidates he got elected, he was a failure.

But when you consider such things as Nixon, Watergate and Suffolk County's own record of Republican corruption, Schwenk did an amazing job of even holding an organization together.

Three years before Schwenk retired, he announced he could no longer financially afford to continue in this unsalaried position. He had kids going off to college and other obligations.

We editorialized then the Suffolk Republicans should pay their leadership a salary equal to their duties and obligations. This came to pass or so it seemed.

The committee announced they were going to pay their chairman \$35,000 per year. With this guarantee, Schwenk agreed to stay on. He was paid a salary, according to his recollection, maybe for four or five months, six months at tops. Then there weren't funds available to meet even this basic obligation.

Schwenk stayed on, partly out of ego, as the losses were mounting. He also feared his spot would be filled by someone who could be corrupted. He didn't want to see a return to the days when Suffolk County Republican influence was bought and sold like a \$2 prostitute.

Schwenk readily admits he co-mingled the county GOP funds with his own. He ran the organization like his own private business. On reflection, he said it was wrong, but then defended it by saying he had no choice.

The organization was continually broke and if he had not put his own

funds into it, there wouldn't have been a Republican organization left in Suffolk County.

Schwenk resigned in January, 1977. Gil Hanse was appointed chairman. Only days after Schwenk's resignation, Hanse received a hand written letter from Schwenk detailing some of the finances of Schwenk and the Republican party.

He asked for an immediate conference to amicably determine who owed what to whom.

According to court testimony, Hanse stated he took Schwenk's letter, read it to his wife, ripped it up and threw it away.

Subsequently, at the insistence of a West End Republican leader, who is reported to be Hanse's godfather, charges were made to the Democratic D.A., Henry O'Brien, Schwenk had embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars of the Republican organization's money.

This Republican leader insisted the D.A.'s office investigate and prosecute. The Democratic D.A. and his aides investigated and in their opinion found there was question but they would have preferred to have put off bringing this information before a grand jury until after election.

The Republican leader in question would have no part of it. He wanted Schwenk's hide right away. He also calculated, coldly, a political indictment of Schwenk prior to the election would cause political embarrassment to the Democratic D.A. This would build ill will among Republicans towards Henry O'Brien.

Schwenk went to trial after election and was acquitted. It cost him \$74,487 to prove his innocence. This was his reward for his life-time of service to the Republican organization and the American system of government.

Schwenk is bitter and rightly so. We can even understand his emotionally charged statement, "If I knew what I know now I would have probably been like the rest of them and gotten in there and taken what I could take, and gotten the hell out."

Just a few years back Schwenk and I sat at the same lunch table and he condemned the attitude of many of those who were in government only for what is in it for them. Schwenk is still asking, no, demanding a reconciliation.

He claims he is owed \$129,000 personally over what he owes the party.

The notes for which he is responsible for over a quarter of a million dollars must be either paid off or transferred to those now in power. There also is the matter of Schwenk's legal costs.

This could have been avoided if Hanse had retained Schwenk's letter. It plainly indicated Schwenk had not intentionally misused party funds. In fact it indicated he was owed a substantial amount of money. He wants a

quick reconciliation of the ledger.

Personally, if I was Schwenk I would be a lot more bitter than he is. Those who were responsible within the party for this impairment of his reputation, this public discredit, would pay and pay dearly.

Schwenk knows where the bodies are buried and if I was him, I wouldn't rest until they were uncovered and those who were responsible made public. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'All or nothing'

Dear Sir:

Perhaps nowhere is the retreat from reason triggered by the fiscal crunch more in evidence than in the Rocky Point School District, where the strategy of linking a budget revote to transportation has been supported by a significant segment of the eligible voters.

Unfortunately, the assumption that denial of transportation supplies sufficient leverage to pass a budget passes neither the test of ethics nor of common sense, because the children are exploited as hostages, and because such denial punishes the families in Rocky Point who supported the budget, while imposing no similar sanction against budget opponents in Sound Beach.

It seems not to have occurred to the "all or

nothing" adherents that those parents who vote against budgets are usually prepared to live with any inconvenience incurred by a budget defeat.

Finally, the strategy of linking budget proposals to transportation suggests a budget which cannot stand close scrutiny and should therefore be held suspect, something akin to placing Robert Redford on the ballot to make Richard Nixon more palatable.

Perhaps the saddest aspect of all this is that "all or nothing strategies" will continue to draw adherents, even if such an approach is only successful one in seven or eight times, by those who favor expedience at any cost.

Respectfully,
Ralph Suarez
Rocky Point

'His job is not an easy one'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In reply to a recent printing of a letter in Readers Opinion "Cops Stop Your Complaining". I feel the strong compulsion to sit down and write.

Why is it the public closes their eyes to the good and is so quick to criticize? Just once print a letter from the other side. I realize your space is limited but I would sincerely appreciate a few words of praise for all Police Officers and their families.

Let me tell you how it looks through the eyes of a policeman's wife and family. Granted they make excellent salaries and have good benefits. "Overpaid" hardly, "Misunderstood" is more like it. Why do you think the divorce rate is among the highest, alcoholism and suicide follows closely behind.

Who sleeps in your bed at night every third night while your spouse is out working? Have you any idea of the amount of concern that runs through your mind between 12 am and 8 am? I doubt it, I'm sure that you and your

spouse are side by side as it should be. What do you tell a 7 year old boy when his father leaves for work and he asks "Is that a real gun? Is someone going to try and shoot my daddy, will he get killed? Is he coming home?" All you can do is try and reassure him, meantime the very same doubts and fears race through your mind too. How do you explain to your children why daddy can't go to mass on Sunday with the family? Better yet, tell your children Santa Claus is coming very early this year, his stops are different and in the middle of all the excitement, daddy gets up and leaves for work. Next Thanksgiving when you're sitting down to your turkey dinner enjoying the holiday spirit, remember my husband is at a diner and his wife and children are looking for a place to spend the day so it isn't a complete loss. There is no such thing as a schedule or routine as shifts change every five days.

Try and remember this is FIRST a man. His job is not an easy one. He is always the cynosure of the public eye. How would you feel after a day's work when effortless attempts were made to save a child's life, or you were called on to notify a family of their son's death. I've been here to help mend those pieces. Where was your family during the worst winter in history, mine was working around the clock. Do you know what it's like to get a call in the middle of the night telling your husband is in the hospital being treated for injuries received while trying to break up a bar fight?

My husband is a Suffolk County Police Officer, and like many of his fellow officers, he is a college graduate. He wears his uniform with pride and serves his community with integrity. Unless you've walked in their shoes, I wouldn't judge so hastily. What price do you put on a man's life...especially if it were your own.

Sincerely,
Karen Zito
Mount Sinai

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