

## Suffolk Life at 19

As we leave our teen age years here at Suffolk Life, I want to personally thank you, our readers, for the support you have given us over the years.

In 1961, I started Suffolk Life for two reasons. The first was selfish. As a Long Island kid, I was born for export. Long Island was a great place to raise your family but as soon as they were educated, the economy of the Island mandates they leave.

Dutifully when I graduated from college, I looked everywhere else for greener pastures. Fortunately, I looked behind me and saw what I had left. Long Island offered those who were willing to work hard, who had a better idea, fertile ground for development of a business. I saw the need for a mass saturation advertising medium capable of going into every home on Eastern Long Island. It couldn't be a pennysaver, residents had shown their dislike for this format. Four had started, four had failed.

I developed the format of Suffolk Life to give the average person recognition in their daily lives. I recognized the general apathy toward government and taxes. I dedicated myself to creating an editorial column that said something, challenging people to think, to take action. This has been the guiding light behind Suffolk Life for these last 19 years.

It does not upset me when people disagree with me. I like to present problems as I see them, I'm willing to offer in easy to understand language a solution that may be controversial but will encourage people to think, to take action on their own. I started Suffolk Life virtually with nothing. I was able to overcome the early financial crises and avoid selling my political soul to any individual or group.

Having weathered the early financial storms, Suffolk Life has emerged as an honest, straight-forward publication subject to no outside influence or control. I feel we have been a protector of the quality of Eastern Long Island life. We've been a vocal watchdog against those who attempted to ruin it, while at the same time nullifying those who would go to

the other extreme and attempt to stop all progress.

As a commercial business, we have attempted to live up to our commitment to advertisers big and small. I promised my handful of initial accounts I would do my darndest to put Suffolk Life in every home in the circulation areas we serve. I would develop a news product that people would look forward to reading; develop circulation packages that were within the reach of not only big businesses but the little ones as well, and keep my rates as competitive as possible. I have lived up to each of these commitments.

Although the prices of most goods and services have tripled over the past 20 years, the actual advertising rates at Suffolk Life are close to what they were in 1961. A column inch of space for 9,000 circulation in those days was \$1.97. Today, a column inch for the same circulation can be bought for as little as \$2.25. This in itself is a miracle. Our newspaper is one of the most important forces of communication on Long Island. As much as I would like to take credit for their accomplishments I can't.

Suffolk Life is a combination of some truly dedicated people, people who care about themselves, their fellow workers and the product they produce. Regularly they give you their best. At times they have pushed themselves past the point of endurance to make sure you receive your copy as a quality product, delivered on time.

I believe in Suffolk County, I believe in its people. We have a lot of tough times ahead, but we have a lot working for us. Together we can keep Suffolk as a better place to live, both for ourselves and our children. We promise to continue to be honest and true to ourselves and to you, the readers who we represent. We may stumble and fall along the way, but we hope you will continue to be behind us, offering your hand in the form of support and constructive criticism.

My sincere thanks again for the years of support and help in becoming a great newspaper.

And why not?

## He's My Brother

We have all heard the lyrics, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother." They aptly apply to President Carter's dilemma concerning Billy.

We happen to consider Jimmy Carter an inadequate President, but we can't help but sympathize with his plight concerning his brother. Even the strongest of Presidents would be hard-put to explain his actions. How could a man be so selfish, so inconsiderate as to knowingly cause humiliation and embarrassment to one of his own family, and the elected President? Equally distasteful are those within the Democratic party, led by Teddy Kennedy, whose own antics equal Billy's. Their attempts to snatch the Presidential nomination away from Carter, after having lost their bid in qualified primary elections from coast to coast, is distasteful.

What is the sense of having primaries if you can break the rules, negating the victor's efforts and the voter's choice. A change in the rules

at this point casts aside the wishes of registered Democrats who voted for Carter. Billy's antics, as Teddy's, are not new. Carter's record as President is no better or worse today than it was six months ago. Democratic voters knew this before they went to the polls and selected Carter over Kennedy in the vast majority of the primaries. Carter has a nomination under the rules of the convention locked up. He won it fair and square. He should not be denied it.

The one thing this last-minute frantic effort by Democratic losers has accomplished is to dig out of the woodwork the political vascillators whom Carter never should have trusted.

This coming week, Democrats from around the nation will gather in New York for their national convention. We hope they will affirm the foundation of government, the primary system and nominate Jimmy Carter to face Ronald Reagan this fall.

And why not?

## Donation Worth Considering

For 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, your life, your home and your possessions are protected by men and women serving as volunteer firemen.

These people give willingly of their time, and risk their safety, to ensure you a voluntary fire department ready to serve when needed. Every fireman goes through more than 100 hours of training and meetings every year. This doesn't include hours spent responding to alarms, or actually fighting fires. They do this because they care for you as an individual and the community at-large.

Because they are volunteers, they are not paid. You are saved hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in taxes which would be needed to man a uniformed fire department.

During the summer, the various departments located throughout

Suffolk hold fundraisers and drives. These drives are for funds to support a host of activities sponsored by the departments. Firemen use the success of these fund drives to measure the appreciation by the community for their efforts. The contributions are strictly voluntary, but ones that should be made by every resident, whether giving a single dollar or hundreds more.

Everyone should contribute something, just to let the men and women know we are grateful for their presence, grateful for their training and deeply appreciative of the risk they take to protect our lives and homes. Don't wait to be called upon, put your donation in the mail with a note of appreciation.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I read with interest the facts concerning the evening clerical workers at Suffolk Community College.

Some legislators gave as a reason for defeating the latest resolution the fact that they thought we would be covered under a union contract. We have never been in a bargaining unit or covered under a union contract.

I, as spokesperson for the evening clerical employees at SCCC, have appeared before the full 18-member Legislature and the Legislative, Personnel and Judiciary Committees many times pleading our cause. If we had union representation, negotiations would have been held between a union negotiator and the director of personnel and labor relations of the county, not by us.

The defense of some legislators that the matter should be handled by the college administration brings to mind the riddle of -- which came first, the chicken or the egg. The college administration says the matter is out of its hands, that the Suffolk Legislature must direct them to give us a raise. And, the legislators tell us the college must solve the problem.

All this jostling back and forth for what amounts to an \$8.00 a week raise, for each of seventy-odd temporary, part-time county employees. Yet, these same legislators who

turned us down on June 24 approved that same day a raise of over \$5,000 for each of TWO county employees, who within six months received a total yearly increase of \$7,800 each, or about a \$150 a week raise. How can this be justified?

In the meantime, a county director has recommended that our part-time jobs be abolished and replaced with full-time positions. That's one way of solving a problem -- kill off and do away with the problem. Give the taxpayers the additional burden of paying for full-time positions where they aren't needed. The Evening College of SCCC has been staffed with "temporary" part-time evening clerical help for over 15 years. The college administration has not requested full-time help for the Evening College. There is no reason for it. We get an hourly wage -- NOTHING ELSE. Full-time employees get a weekly salary, plus 35 percent in benefits!

This recommendation was made to scare us off. However, we won't back down. We'll handle this event as we have the deception and misinformation which came before it -- With courage and truth we'll hang in there until justice is served.

Onwardly,  
Theresa Cannone  
Spokesperson for Evening Clericals at Suffolk County Community College

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# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL 20 NO. 1

and Suffolk County Life

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Mastic, Shirley  
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Medford  
Sayville, Oakdale  
Ronkonkoma  
Centereach

Selden  
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Three Village



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## East End Short Count

According to Long Island Lighting Co. figures, there are a total of 56,818 active, dwelling units as of January 1, 1980 in the East End. An active dwelling unit is calculated by electrical meters in operation.

According to the U.S. Post Office, there were 49,841 active residential post office boxes in the East End as of the same date. According to our own circulation records, we were delivering 48,941 copies to occupied dwellings during the same period.

These three sets of figures fairly accurately reflect the maximum number of families living on the East End as of Jan. 1, 1980. But, none of these figures adequately reflect the illegal multiple family dwellings so prevalent throughout all of Eastern Long Island. It has been estimated that from 5 to 20 per cent of the single family dwellings throughout Long Island actually are occupied by two or more families. They use a single mail box, have a single front door and share a common electrical meter.

Preliminary reports on the U.S. Census were released last week. Unbelievably they indicate there are only 96,840 men, women and children living on the East End. This is preposterous. According to the State Board of Education, there are more than 20,000 public and parochial school students in the East End districts alone. For the census figures to be at all accurate, the vast majority of dwelling units on the East

End must be occupied by single people. Outside of some mobile homes, concentrated in Riverhead, there are few single dwelling units on the East End.

Now you're probably asking yourself, how does this affect me? It affects you directly. The number of congressmen and assemblymen to represent you is determined by the census figures. More important in today's tough economic times, federal and state aid is based on population. Eastern Long Island, being short changed by the census counts can mean the loss of millions of dollars and aid we need and deserve.

Based on a nation-wide norm of 3.6 people per occupied dwelling, it would appear that half of the population of Eastern Long Island has been missed. Drop it to a more conservative figure of 3.2 that is sometimes used, and there still are more than 75,000 people who remain uncounted. Everyone in local, county and state government should be up in arms.

An informal survey conducted here at Suffolk Life indicated some of our employees never received a census form, were never approached by a census taker. We think the same will hold true throughout the area. We must have a recount here on Long Island, particularly on the East End. We're being badly short counted, and, as a result, we'll be robbed. Let's demand an honest count. And why not?

## Who Owns Maple Swamp

For some time now, a large tract of land located in Hampton Bays, called Maple Swamp, has been under consideration for purchase by Suffolk County.

Last November, a trusted source of Suffolk Life suggested something might be less than cricket on this acquisition. The source also was a supporter of the incoming County Executive Peter Cohalan. We advised Cohalan of our information and asked him to check it out. Specifically, we suggested he find who actually owned

the property, their political and governmental connections. He didn't need any embarrassment to start off his administration.

Over the last six months, the Maple Swamp acquisition constantly resurfaced. We are still waiting to hear who owns it, who is behind the acquisition. Is it really needed? Is Suffolk County preparing to buy swamps and wetlands that can never support construction as well as buildable highland? Cohalan would be very wise to find answers to these

questions before more time elapses. There are too many rumors floating around unchecked. They could prove tremendously embarrassing if proven true.

Economics are tight, and some people may need a quick infusion of cash to bail themselves out of prior jams. They shouldn't be looking to Suffolk County residents as bail bondsmen. Swamps and wetlands

that can't be built on are of dubious value.

Cohalan owes it to the people of Suffolk County, especially his supporters, to order a thorough and complete investigation of who owns this property, who stands to benefit from its sale. Why is the purchase being pushed?

And why not?

## Let's Stop The Cowards

We're mad, hopping mad!

Actually, the incident being related over the phone by a distraught mother is much too common: the criminal act of dirty cowards, emboldened by the growing anonymity of today.

Today, a 17-year-old girl who has appeared on the high school and local theater group stage, has undergone plastic surgery, needed 40 stitches, and may face further surgery. Her brother also was injured.

Why? Were the youths involved in any quarrel? Were they in an automobile accident? No. It seems the family simply was coming home from a birthday dinner celebration when some young punks in a car tossed a beer bottle at their car. The shattering glass did the rest.

As we understand the story, the Lake Ronkonkoma family was driving one direction, when the car of punks traveled toward it, reportedly weaving into the oncoming traffic. The driver of a car about five lengths ahead of the family car blew the horn. He obviously objected to the danger. However, those anonymous cowards didn't like it, apparently, and tossed

the beer bottle which did its damage. The punks got the wrong party for their revenge.

This incident is only worse by degree than many you hear about all the time. Usually, it's property damaged by cowardly sneaks, leaving the victim little recourse. Police seem to have little interest in the matter; it's too impersonal, too hard to bring anyone to justice.

Residents report the bottle-throwing is all too common, and not unknown to the police. Also not unknown to the police, who provide no answers, is the drug problem in that area. We feel action is long overdue. The area, the problems, cry for attention.

But this tragic incident points up the undeniable fact: people are involved, they're always hurt. It's not always as severe as this incident, but there's always someone hurt.

"Does anyone realize what this can do... (to a family, to a young girl's life)?" a mother asks in anguish.

We say it's about time someone did some thinking.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your article on auto emission inspection and your editorial, although in the right spirit, was also sadly lacking in facts:

Fact 1 - the inspection program was forced on the state by the Federal EPA with the threat of withholding millions of dollars of our federal tax money from the state (the federal agencies have taken over the job of Congress in this regard).

Fact 2 - most cars in New York cannot pass the test, not only for the reasons you mentioned, but also because the same EPA has allowed a gas additive (MMT) to be added to unleaded (this is a crude oil saving measure). MMT fouls catalytic converters! You may check with Mr. Peter Lanahan of the State DEC on this matter. This is simply a case of one hand not caring what the other hand does!

Fact 3 - the pollution problem will to a large extent solve itself in the next 10 to 15 years as cars become smaller, gas more expensive, and alternate means of travel become necessary. The money and research time devoted to anti-pollution devices could be better spent on trying to get better mileage.

It is a frightening experience to watch a bunch of federal officials who are mostly interested in preserving their jobs, twist the arms of a bunch of politicians who have neither the guts nor the technical competence to fight back.

The cost of cars, upkeep, gasoline, insurance, etc. is rapidly removing the automobile from the young and making it almost impossible for them to live on Long Island! This inspection is just another nail in the coffin!

I live in Brookhaven Town, also in Mr. Behan's district. He could do a little

screaming on my behalf, too. Not just for the "East End." I would also like to point out that the PEA uses the old "divide and conquer" technique. Once they have the metropolitan area under their thumb they will go after the rest of the state! In order to keep themselves busy they will not rest until the whole state is on bicycles.

Sincerely,  
Kurt Jellet  
Shoreham

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I read with anger the crackpot idea of those jerks in Albany on emission inspections for motorists.

How that can involve us out here on the East End is sickening. Except for an occasional fog we get once in awhile, we have the cleanest air in the country.

This crackbrained idea of the ones responsible can only be another way to steal our hard-earned money. Every now and then the Motor Vehicle Department comes up with another way to make driving a car a headache.

Like the car use tax in the city -- we pay that too, in other ways. We are forced to use no-lead gas with only 85-87 octane. Which doesn't help the running of your car very well. And, an extra charge of 8-10 cents a gallon.

Please give us a break. We have enough problems driving today. Let us live and enjoy life. Everyone out this way should voice their opposition to this program -- three cheers for John Behan.

Frank Buonaiuto

USPS 098-300

# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 2

and Suffolk County Life

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# Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## The Lines Are Drawn

For the first time in our memory, voters in Suffolk County are being given a clear cut choice between Liberal and Conservative philosophies.

Nationally, Jimmy Carter and the platform he will be running on are at the extreme left. The platform, ideologically, is pure Liberalism. It encourages big government, and the taxes needed to support it. It embraces the concept that government collectively can do better for the individual than the individual can do for himself.

Republican Ronald Reagan's philosophy is conservative. The platform he is running on was structured by the conservative wing of the Republican Party. It returns to the individual the right to make decisions for himself, to provide an atmosphere in which he can prosper and keep as much as he can of his earnings.

Voters for President will have a clear cut choice of which philosophy they wish to embrace.

Also, on Sept. 9 there will be two primaries that should be of tremendous interest to Republicans locally and throughout the state. For U.S. Senate, Al D'Amato, presiding supervisor of the Town of Hempstead, is challenging Jacob Javits who has held this seat for the past 25 years. Although Javits is a Republican, he has voted consistently with the liberal Democrats. Javits is a product of the east side of New York, a center of liberalism. Most politicians who have come from this area traditionally have been Democrats, very liberal Democrats. Javits is 76 and reported to be in failing health. Speculation was wide-spread he would not seek another six-year term. He surprised political professionals by his announcement to run again.

Many in the Republican Party have been disillusioned with his voting record, as they have felt he did not represent the main-stream of

Republicanism. In fact, years ago, when the Conservative party was founded by former Republicans, the initial goal was to eliminate Nelson Rockefeller, Javits and John Lindsay from the Republican Party. They felt these leaders had taken their party from its traditional cautious philosophy and developed it into a pseudo Democratic organization. Last winter, Al D'Amato emerged as a candidate for Javits' seat. Since that time, he has crisscrossed the state making his name and views known. He received the endorsement of the Right to Life Party as well as the Conservatives.

When Javits again was given the designation to run by the Republican State Committee, he mounted a primary challenge. He has effectively struck out at Javits' liberal voting record and continually asks Republicans if it isn't time for them to have a real Republican in office.

Javits has 25 years' incumbency going for him. It will be interesting to see how this campaign develops over the next three weeks.

Locally in the primary for Congress, Rep. Bill Carney, a registered Conservative, is on the Republican ballot for re-election as the designee of the Republican Committee. He is being challenged by Jack Hart of Bellport, a registered Republican. He also is asking Republicans why they need somebody who is not a Republican. Ironically, the Carney-Hart race is the opposite of the D'Amato-Javits race, but from opposite ends of the spectrum. Between now and September 9, Republicans should reason all they can about the candidates. They will determine the direction the N.Y. State Republican Party will go in the future.

We will be offering readers in-depth coverage of these races in hopes an informed electorate will turn out at the polls.

And why not?

## State Copping Out

The Long Island Expressway is a New York State road, funded and operated as part of the New York State Highway system.

Last spring, John Rosso, legislator from the Second District, raised an interesting question. Why are Suffolk County Police patrolling this stretch of highway? It's a state road, and the state's responsibility.

Rosso claims 60 per cent of the County Police force is used for patrolling this highway, with not one cent in reimbursement from the state.

In a related move last week the County Legislature turned down paying the County's share of funds to increase lighting along this highway. The lights are needed for safety. The reason is that the L.I.E. is a

state road and officials have said it's about time the state started picking up its fair share of operating costs. We couldn't agree more.

The state receives in fuel taxes about 7 cents on every gallon of gasoline we buy. Additionally, they receive 4 cents in sales tax on all fuel costs. This amounts to millions annually paid by Long Island motorists. These funds should be used for roadways here on Long Island. The State should be paying not only for the road maintenance and the lighting, but also for law enforcement. If Rosso's facts are accurate, Western Suffolk residents would see a substantial reduction in real estate taxes if the state could be persuaded to pick up its rightful share of the highway

law enforcement cost. The road is the State's responsibility, it is their obligation to fund all direct costs involved.

The New York State Thruway is another major road serving Upstate New York. It is patrolled almost exclusively by New York State Police.

The counties and the towns through which the road passes provide no funds for the state police except the general state tax. Why should we be discriminated against here on Long Island?

Not only is that thruway patrolled by State Police, but so is the Northway and other major thruways throughout northern New York. The funds for this law enforcement comes from New York Staters from Montauk to Buffalo. We here on Long Island are effectively subsidizing and reducing the cost of local government.

The cost of the Suffolk County Police is the second highest item in

the County budget. Welfare is number one. Needless to say, the cost of the County Police could not be totally eliminated. But, it would help reduce the tax burden on real estate throughout Western Suffolk. Rosso claims his inquiry was shot down because some Suffolk County Legislators are known to be friends of the local police unions. These unions fear if the State provided the officers for patrolling the Long Island Expressway, they would be State Police, reducing their power and influence.

If Rosso's charges are true, he should make these legislators' names known, for these individuals are contributing directly to the high cost of living on Long Island, wasting taxpayers' funds.

Suffolk County should petition the State of New York to either make the funds available to pay for county law enforcement on this road or provide state law enforcement.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### The True Culprit

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Since I have always been impressed with the zeal by which your reporters have dug out the truth, I was rather dismayed at your inattention to the facts in your editorial of July 16th entitled "Picking Our Pockets Again."

As counsel to the New York State Assembly Transportation Committee, I am well aware of the inequity which affects Eastern Long Island, vis-a-vis the Motor Vehicle emissions inspection program. But the onus should be placed not on the state government branches, but on the true culprit, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

That agency has mandated that the New York City metropolitan counties, which includes all of Suffolk County, have an

emissions testing program in operation, or the whole state of New York will lose all federal grants for highway construction and maintenance. The State Assembly, Senate and Governor's office have been involved in negotiations with the Feds for years trying to get some modification of these arbitrary Federal edicts, but to no avail.

Eastern Long Island's point of view, as expressed in your editorial, has been thoroughly articulated to the Feds by our State legislators, the Governor's office and by me, as an Eastern Long Islander. Needle the Federal EPA, Dave, not the state government!

Very truly yours,  
Robert G. Bauer  
Patchogue

### Overwhelming Support

Dear Mr. Willmott:

A number of contenders for the Democratic nomination to run for Congress are suddenly sprouting like wildflowers. Unfortunately, they are late bloomers, and I am amused by their dismay to discover that Tom Twomey already has the overwhelming support of Democratic committee people throughout the 1st Congressional District.

It has been my pleasure to have worked closely with Tom over the past several years on a number of issues to protect the environment, save farmland, and to stop the Jamesport nuclear power plants. Tom's most outstanding characteristic is his ef-

fectiveness in anything he undertakes. His successes in local civic battles have not been mere good luck, but the result of his intense determination, hard work and his ability to work closely and effectively with large numbers of people.

This is obvious what Tom has been doing over the past long winter months to secure the Democratic nomination to run for Congress. Those who now complain so bitterly over his success would do well to learn from his example.

Sincerely yours,  
Debra Brodie Foster  
East Hampton

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## Who Should Select The Next Senator

Sen. Jacob Javits is a 76-year-old man; he is ailing.

Statistically, he will not live to serve a six-year term. Voters must realize this. If he fails to live out his term and the governor's seat is occupied by a Democrat, as it is now, the next Senator from New York State will be the appointment of that governor. This is the dilemma facing registered Republicans.

It probably makes no difference to the general voter if a Democrat is appointed, for Javits has one of the most liberal voting records of all senators. In 1976, he voted 86 percent of the time; in 1979, 82 percent of the time, with President Carter. The only major vote he and Carter disagreed on involved allowing the military to become unionized. Carter opposed it; Javits favored it along with two other senators in Congress. Javits' voting record is more liberal than Ted Kennedy, George McGovern or Frank Church, who are of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

Javits has the Liberal line in the upcoming campaign. This is the line he belongs on. The Republican's alternative to Javits is Al D'Amato, presiding supervisor from Hempstead. Our first reaction when we heard D'Amato was interested in running for Senate was to investigate his credentials. How did his service as supervisor qualify him for a Senate seat?

You must put Hempstead into perspective. It's larger than 11 states. D'Amato's job is equivalent to that of a governor. As supervisor, he has proven to be a tough, competent and imaginative administrator. His fiscal conservatism has led to two successive years of tax cuts; his budgets

have reflected less than a 2.2 percent increase during a period of double-digit inflation. He has provided services formerly non-existent in that town to meet the social needs of the people, while at the same time refusing to bow to the will of the federal bureaucrats.

D'Amato, by comparison to Javits, is young, 43 years old. He is from a middle class working background. He educated himself by working his way through college and law school as a janitor. Politically, he has been attractive to both rich and poor alike. His strengths come from his abilities to understand and interpret the needs of the working people. He is a hawk on defense, and says he is appalled at the weakened condition of America's military ability.

D'Amato is an attractive, viable alternative to Javits for Republicans as well as a positive alternative for Independents, Conservatives and Democrats. Before the Republicans go to the Primary polls on Sept. 9, they have a clear-cut decision to make. Do they want their party, their philosophy to continue to be dominated by Javits and the ultra-liberals, as it has for three decades, or do they want it to go back to the traditional mainstream of conservatism that it was created to represent?

If Republicans prefer the liberal swing, and choose Javits, they also must realize chances are better than average they are empowering a liberal Democratic governor to select the senator sometime during the next six years. For a change, the issues are clear cut. The choice should be simple.

And why not?

## What Labor Needs Most

This coming Monday is Labor Day, traditionally set aside to honor the productive, working men and women of this country.

It is a day usually marked with rallies organized by unions, filled with speeches and rhetoric of unionism and what it has done for the laborers of this country. Promises are numerous. We hope this year's round of speeches will contain a simple pledge by heads of all organized labor to use their political muscle to convince the elected officials to produce legislation requiring indexing of all income taxes.

Indexing will stop the increase in taxation caused by inflation. Most wage increases working people receive are eaten up by inflation, yet they are forced to pay a higher percentage in income taxes. Under our tax system the percent of tax we pay increases as we earn more dollars. Wage increases gained by labor are illusory. Inflation erodes their value.

Being pushed into a higher income

tax bracket reduces the real take-home pay, and the buying power of these inflated dollars is diminished. There is no other single cause of more importance to the productive, working people of this country than an indexing mechanism.

Without indexing, the productive workers' income and real buying

power rapidly is being diminished. Everyone falls farther behind. The increased dollars gained by the federal and state governments through these non-approved tax increases additionally feed inflation causing those worker dollars to be further diminished in real value.

Indexing should be the prime ob-

jective of liberals and conservatives. The horrendous condition it is causing affects us all, regardless of political philosophies. Rich and poor alike are destroyed. The economic fiber of this country is damaged. This Labor Day everyone should join forces and demand indexing now.

And why not?

## Stockpayer's Responsibility

Utilities like the Long Island Lighting Co. are monopolies -- private businesses, but with a franchise as sole supplier of a service in the area.

Because they are the sole supplier they are regulated by the government. For practical purposes, they take on a quasi-governmental status. As a business, its board of directors has a responsibility to seek out prudent investments and ways to increase stockholder assets. As a government-regulated entity, the board has a responsibility to provide a service. For providing this service, LILCO is guaranteed a fixed return on expenditures. It's a fine line between expenditures the corporation makes for the betterment of the stockholders or for the public the corporation serves.

We believe LILCO crossed this fine line when it joined with the New York State Electric Gas Corp. in seeking permission to build two new nuclear or coal generating plants in upstate New York. The capacity LILCO has for projects here on Long Island has been proven through extensive hearings to be more than adequate. It can meet LILCO customer needs now and well into the future.

Further, it has been suggested quite strongly that the whole thrust behind LILCO's plant development was not to serve Long Island's needs. It is to place LILCO in a position to export energy produced here on Long Island.

The cost of constructing generating plants is an improvement in stockholder assets. This does not directly benefit consumers. This project was scuttled because the State Board of Electric Generating Siting and The Environment rejected the application for a permit. Grounds were that "its ownership was so clouded that there was no basis for proceeding further."

LILCO entered into this project to enhance the value of the company and stockholder holdings. The responsibility for dropping the ball can be laid to the board of directors. The mistakes it made should not be charged to the ratepayers. They had no input, vote or control over site selection, or the decision to involve the company in this ill-fated project. The potential losses incurred by this project must be absorbed by the stockholders who do have control and who would have profited.

Also, the Public Service Commission itself questions the validity of LILCO's petition for this latest rate increase. Public law does not require public hearings on this type of request, but the commission members decided a hearing would be in the public's best interest.

All elected officials should respond by sending testimony opposing LILCO's latest attempt to rape the ratepayers while protecting the stockholders.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your editorial of Aug. 20, given to you by Legislator John Rosso, was fraught with misinformation. To set the record straight, here are the true facts.

There are 2,722 allotted police positions in the Suffolk County Police Department. Of these positions, 122 are allotted to the Highway Bureau, 102 police officers, and 20 superior officers. Sixty (60) police officers patrol the Long Island Expressway, not 60 percent of the police force. The Highway Patrol is also responsible for Breathalyzer Tests and respond to each precinct to administer these tests. In 1979, over 4,000 Breathalyzer Tests were given by the Highway

Patrol. They also patrol all state roads, not only the Long Island Expressway, i.e.: Sunrise Highway, Jericho, etc. The total Highway Bureau is 4.4 percent of the total Suffolk County Police force and the sixty (60) police officers that patrol the Long Island Expressway represent 2.2 percent of the total force. The Highway Patrol is called upon for riot duty and crowd control and are in the forefront at large demonstrations, i.e.: Shoreham demonstration and the Riverhead prison riot.

In response to Mr. Rosso's allegation that his resolution to dissolve the Highway Bureau did not pass the Legislature, the facts are, not that a few of the legislators are friends of the police union, which we cannot deny, but there was no one willing to bring the motion forth. The Public Safety Committee voted unanimously not to address Mr. Rosso's resolution. If Mr. Rosso really had the interest of the taxpayer of Suffolk County in mind, he would have gotten the true facts rather than going off half-cocked and giving misinformation to the media.

I suggest that instead of the State Police taking over some of the duties of the Highway Bureau, Mr. Rosso should contact our elected officials in Albany to see if the county could be reimbursed for services rendered. I have also heard that the State Police are in a virtual manpower bind and have just about enough personnel to handle its present assignments.

Thank you very much for allowing the true story to be told.

Yours truly,  
John C. Wehrenberg Jr.  
Chairman, Public Safety Committee

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