

## Americans Get A Break

At 5:30 last Wednesday, the phone rang. It was Congressman William Carney. He said, "Congratulations, you won your 10-year battle. Indexing passed the House." It was part of the tax reform package that the Administration had proposed and Congress passed overwhelmingly.

The Kemp-Roth part of the tax package which will reduce taxes 10 percent this year, 10 percent next year and an additional 5 percent in 1983 is important but, in reality, all this will do is take some of the sting out of inflation. What is of real importance and was opposed vehemently by liberal Democrats is the indexing of all future taxes.

Indexing strips from the federal government automatic tax increases it receives whenever there is inflation. The Democrats have used these non-legislated tax increases to swell the federal budget from a couple of hundred billion dollars to over a trillion dollars in the last decade. This huge increase in federal spending has been the culprit in causing inflation. These inflation tax dollars were not taken from the rich or the poor. They were taken from those who are at the lowest tax bracket up to the next to last highest, middle-class Americans.

As inflation increased the amount of money the American public made, it caused what is commonly called bracket creep. In theory, we operate under a progressive income tax-

system. The more you make, the higher percentage of what you make is paid in taxes. Those extra tax dollars have been a windfall to the federal government. They've enabled it to increase its spending at an alarming rate, while, at the same time, not having to increase taxes through votes. It was a system of robbing the middle class and it came close to bankrupting our entire economic system.

The concept of indexing is hard to understand, even harder to explain and as a result, it did not gain public support or momentum until about three years ago. All of a sudden, the average American became aware that although he was earning many more dollars, he was paying huge increases in taxes which left him with a diminished spendable income.

Indexing gives the American taxpayer nothing more than a fair chance to stay even. It's no windfall, but in the long run it is, without a doubt, the most important tax measure ever passed in his favor.

With indexing, the average taxpayer will be able to stay even with the government, and because the government will have to legitimately pass tax increases if they want more revenue in the future, government spending should be slowed and inflation controlled.

We are delighted. We hope you are too. And why not?

## Suffer The Little Children

Just a month ago, headlines in the sensationally inclined New York daily newspapers screamed out for justice in the little Michael case, the tragic story of a little child who had been shifted from his foster home, where he had found love and security, to live with his natural mother and her boyfriend. The bizarre story involved numerous instances of beatings little Michael received at his mother's hands, which ultimately led to his death. His natural mother and her boyfriend have been charged with killing him.

You would hope the story of little Michael was a once-in-a-lifetime happening. Certainly there are laws in this civilized society to protect little children, aren't there?

Well, we have good cause to won-

der. Suffolk Life received a letter recently from a foster mother who related a chain of events which were chillingly close enough to the little Michael happening to raise serious doubts in our mind about the system which places the lives of little children in jeopardy. The system seems to be so overly concerned about the "rights" of the natural mother it tends to forget or ignore the basic rights of the child.

Suffolk Life immediately launched into an investigation of the facts related. What information we could learn did not come easily. There are a lot of closed doors under the guise of "privacy" that were slammed in our face when we posed our questions.

We have no desire to invade the privacy of those involved. But we

could not, under any circumstances, just sit back and do nothing, allowing the system to reach a senseless decision which would lead to another case of another little Michael.

There may well be a way to prevent the instances of little Michael tragedies. It's called fixing responsibility for the outcome of bureaucratic decisions that take a young child from the safe haven of a foster home and return him or her, under the guise of the rights of the natural mother being protected, to a home where the threat of emotional or bodily harm exists.

It is high time that those involved in making decisions about the future of little children — be they caseworkers, social services officials, or the courts

— be held accountable for the end result of those decisions. If a child is taken from the security of a safe environment and returned to his natural parents, and should harm befall that child as a result, those who played a part in making that decision should be held as accomplices to the crime that follows.

Holding the parent responsible is not enough! Those who participate in the decision to place the child where harm can come must also shoulder the responsibility. Then, perhaps, such decisions will be made with more concern for the safety of the child rather than the rights of the natural parent.

And why not?

## Grass Roots Politics

Politics is never closer to the people than through the primary system. This year, Republicans throughout the county will have an opportunity of selecting their committeepeople. Throughout the county, there are hundreds of election districts. In each district there should be two Republicans, two Democrats and two Conservative committeepeople.

All committeepeople are charged with knowing the registered voters within their district. If they are doing their job well, they make frequent contact with their constituents. They make themselves available to be of service. They poll these constituents on a regular basis to determine their beliefs, their desires, how they want their party and their government to function.

Every two years, committeepeople come up for election. If a committee post becomes vacant between the biannual elections, town leaders normally propose a candidate to the county leader, who then certifies this nominee as a committeeperson until the primary election takes place.

All too often, primary elections are neglected by the media and the voters. Although there are more than 1,100 election districts here in Suffolk County, there are fewer than 90 districts where there are contests. This is an improvement over the past, but not good. We would like to believe that in the other 1,000 some-odd districts, committeepeople are doing such a great job that voters have complete faith in their performance and there is no reason for a challenge. Unfortunately, this is not true and apathy is the rule.

Some of the contested races are legitimate races between two concerned Republicans. The voters in these districts are fortunate. In other races it is a contest between the ins and the outs. The outs are the old guard, pre-Cohalan people. During their tenure of office, they enjoyed rich rewards. They manipulated the system for their own benefit. When Cohalan, Prudenti and much of the new leadership that has emerged in the past two years took over the helm, they did so with a mandate from the rank and file of the Republican party. "Clean up our act! Clean up our house! Weed out corruption and the corruptables, return government to the people!" In living up to the mandate the voters had set forth, a lot of toes got stepped on. People who had used the system for their own personal gain found doors shut. People who had no-performance contracts and no-show jobs were dismissed.

Some of the boys in the back room found they no longer had control. They couldn't get things done their way. They didn't believe anybody would have the courage, the conviction to say, "Stop going to the well."

Understandably, they are angry. The spigot has been cut off. They've lost their power. They've lost their patronage. They've lost the source of money that made some rich legitimately and some illegally. They want to come back, not because they are good concerned Republicans, just greedy people who want more personally.

Some are attempting to use the primary system to regain power they once had. In some towns they've fielded candidates to fill vacancies. In other towns, they've put up candidates who will help them, if successful, bring things back to the way they were.

In these election districts where there are contested races, if the voters are approached by a candidate they should first ask this candidate, "What is in it for you? Why are you running? Who do you support? Which faction are you aligned with? What does that faction stand for? What are its beliefs?" Weigh out what each side is saying carefully. Where there are politicians, there is rhetoric. Look at the track record, the personalities involved. What are their reputations for honesty, integrity and responsibility? Be prepared, on September 10, to go to the polls making an intelligent decision upon who you want to be your committeeperson.

At the same time you make your selection for committeeperson, you will also have the opportunity, in some races, to choose the candidate you want to be the representative of your party in the general election. This is healthy. All too often, incumbents go unchallenged from within their own party. During the next five weeks, Suffolk Life intends to focus a great deal of attention on the individual primary races and the primary challenges for the nomination to offices. Our reporters will be interviewing the candidates and their supporters for major legislative and administrative offices. We will be publishing these reports each week. We will conduct staff interviews as we have in the past and we hope that by Primary Day we will be able to present to you, our readers, a comprehensive rundown on who's who and what the issues are. And why not?

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## SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

and Suffolk County Life

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Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

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Riverhead  
Hampton East  
Mid Hampton  
Westhampton  
Worches

Mastic, Shirley,  
Patchogue  
Medford  
Sayville, Oakdale  
Ronkonkoma  
Centersch

Selden  
Coram  
Rocky Point  
Port Jefferson  
Three Villages



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## Twenty Years Of Giving

This edition is the last edition of Suffolk Life as a teenager. We start our 20th year of publishing with next Wednesday's newspaper. Traditionally, on your birthday you receive presents. We're not traditional - we're innovators, so instead we're giving.

Suffolk Life is people. It's our staff, our advertisers, it's our readers. To commemorate our 20 years of public service, we are giving to those three groups of people some mighty fine presents.

Members of our staff and the advertisers who will be in our 20th Anniversary promotion will be invited, along with 100 lucky readers, to our birthday party for a presentation of "Damn Yankees" at Jones Beach Marine Theater on August 26. It's a super show and a wonderful atmosphere. We would like to give all 200,000 families who receive Suffolk Life each week a pair of tickets, but unfortunately, that is both impractical and financially impossible. So, we have done the next best thing.

We are running a contest in which you, a loyal reader of Suffolk Life, can win absolutely free a pair of tickets for you and your guest to see this super show. It should be a good evening with over 700 people in attendance. You will have an opportunity of meeting members of the Suffolk Life family, fellow readers, advertisers and some of the leading officials throughout Suffolk and the state as well as other friends of Suffolk Life.

In the second week of our Anniversary celebration, 100 of our readers will have an opportunity to win five New York State Lottery tickets. These tickets may win you up to \$1 million. They are being given away as part of our anniversary celebration in conjunction with the New York State Lottery's 5th anniversary.

In the third week of this exciting promotion, you may be the lucky recipient of a pair of tickets to the fabulous, exciting presentation of Mel Torme, Rosemary Clooney and the Glen Miller Orchestra.

The fourth and final week of our promotion has the best prize of all: a deluxe vacation for two at the fabulous Roseland Resort Ranch. The vacation runs from Sunday dinner through Friday lunch. It may be taken anytime except July, August, January or February. We have been there personally, in both the spring and fall, and it is absolutely delightful. Roseland is renowned for superb meals, excellent horses, 1,200 gorgeous acres of groomed trails. They have all the amenities you would expect to find at a first-class resort, plus the folks who run it, Mama Rose and her kids, Chickie and Sonny and the rest of the family go out of their way to make all guests feel completely at home and have a super time.

All you have to do to be a winner is clip the coupon found elsewhere in this paper and deposit it at any one of the participating stores. Nothing to buy, no obligation other than if you like to tell the business you like to read Suffolk Life and appreciate their advertising in it.

During Suffolk Life's 20 years, we have given away thousands of prizes. It's the spirit of Suffolk Life to give, whether it be prizes for our readers, exceptional service for our advertisers, news of communities, recognition of people for our reader. Suffolk Life is a community newspaper that has taken its responsibility to its readers and advertisers seriously. It is the publisher's belief that a business serving a community has a responsibility not only to take but to give back. We've tried to give more than we receive.

During our past 20 years, we have tried in every way possible to be of meaning, of purpose and of service to all aspects of the community. We have continually tried to be better. As we leave our teenage years, we look forward to serving the community with even more vigor and more strength in the future. We believe in Suffolk and thank Suffolk for having belief in us. And why not?

public vote on reapportionment. The legislature is in total disarray over which district is what and who is running where. The legislature was charged with passing a law setting up the districts and the rules. It couldn't do it correctly as a body and as a result there is mass confusion.

On the face, the petitions submitted can be invalidated because they were not in 10 separate volumes, one representing each town. This is only one of a host of technicalities their opponents would use for invalidation.

We did not take joy in noting this, for again the public is being denied, through technicalities, the right to vote, to choose for themselves the type of government they wish to be governed by. Yes, there was some satisfaction in seeing the law these people had written to thwart the people thwart their own efforts.

Laws in our country are written for all people. This case is a classic reminder to those who write laws that if done imperfectly to thwart its intention, it may well affect them as well as others in the future.

This appears to be what is happening. The citizens' ability to petition their government should be free of red tape. The rules should be simple enough for the average citizen to figure out. There should be no loopholes for technicalities that only those who make a study can understand.

A petition of the government is a

fundamental right of a democratically run government. It is a fundamental right that must be available for the citizenry to use in creating response when those in office refuse to listen. These are rights protected under the constitution, and they should not be tampered with by those in control.

The I & R law in Suffolk County was a tremendous accomplishment, for Suffolk is the only county in the State of New York, outside of New York City, which has this mechanism. As the law stands today, it is an abomination. It is not practical, it is not workable and only after superhuman attention to minute details can petitions be accepted without challenge. Even the political leaders, who work with petitions as a way of life, would have trouble correctly performing what is called for.

The legislature, now having felt the wrath of its own creation, should set about with the executive and the county attorney in rewriting this law to meet the intent and the purpose of this fine tool of a democratic government. The loopholes should be removed, the wordage reduced to understandable language, the technicalities and pitfalls eliminated.

Let the rewriting be an honest effort by all concerned in forming a workable tool to insure a responsible, democratic government. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The tennis courts "affair" in Hampton Bays has, over the years, been approaching chaos on the one hand and slapstick comedy on the other. Surely there are enough people in the community willing to support Selma Broder's proposal, that a reasonable fee be assessed to those of us who would welcome a system assuring that the courts would be available during the week, and especially, weekends. As for non-residents, one has only to look at the prices charged by the private courts in Hampton Bays to realize that Broder's proposal for them is more than fair.

Sincerely yours,  
Samuel Ziskind  
Hampton Bays

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Everyone knows that welfare recipients are most likely to be fraudulent, filthy, destructive and immoral. All you have to do is read any of the local newspapers to know that much; or consult with any one of our

prominent homeowners, who rents one of his 20-year-old converted roach havens to welfare.

Doubtless, that many readers believe anything to the contrary. However, I could not resist taking this opportunity to compliment a letter recently published in your column, "I have walked a mile." Her letter was not only based on facts (as I know them) but also gave an accurate account of the countless paybacks expected of welfare recipients.

So, in reality we are the fund-raisers — more of us than you know about — who are perpetually billed for services rendered by the welfare department.

I, too, am a single parent who has held down two jobs over the past several years to help support my children.

You see, Mr. Willmott, it is very expensive to be poor.

If a heart attack from overexertion doesn't get me first, I will surely be financially consumed.

Perpetually in Their Debt  
Shirley

## Funny Thing About The Law

It was just about a year ago when a committee presented to the Suffolk County Legislature a group of petitions numbering close to 20,000. They were signed by residents from all 10 towns. They requested the Legislature to act on a motion to give the citizens of Suffolk County the right to vote on whether they wished to continue to be governed by a legislature or to return to a weighted board of supervisors.

The petitions were presented under the Initiative and Referendum Act drafted by the legislature and voted into law. It was the first time this democratic mechanism had been put to a test.

Your editor had been the spearhead behind this movement. When he presented the petitions he was told privately his efforts were for nil. The law had been written to beat back legitimate utilization. With a chuckle, his adversary said, you will never win, because we are still going to do the counting. We will beat you on technicalities.

The last laugh is not the sweetest. Some of those same people who were so strongly opposed to giving the people of this county the right to determine how they wanted to be governed last week presented a petition of their own to the legislature with 20,000 names on it. They want a

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## There Are No Nickel Cigars

We congratulate the Suffolk County Legislature for authorizing a study of a public takeover of the Long Island Lighting Co.

It's a shame that LILCO created an atmosphere that has won public support of such a movement. Suffolk County basically is a bastion of conservatism. Conservative thought is for less government, not more. Yet even this editorial column, which tends to be conservative, agrees that an alternative to LILCO must be explored.

LILCO is a monopoly. It is supposed to be regulated by the Public Service Commission. We question how much regulation has gone on over the years. Although they were opposed at every step of the way and lacked community support, LILCO jumped in with both feet in attempting to generate electricity through expensive nuclear power. LILCO's rates are among the highest in the nation. It's not uncommon for homeowners to receive electric bills over \$100. In many cases, the bills reached a point where they equal mortgage payments. A combination of outlandish rates and an arrogance directed at those who are concerned about the safety of nuclear energy was the impetus that caused the county legislature to seriously look at a public takeover of this utility.

During the last decade, ideas have been proposed for safe, clean alternative means of generating electricity. They have ranged the gamut from coal to solar and wind. LILCO persisted in claiming that nuclear was the only way to go.

Up until Three Mile Island, there never had been an accident. Three Mile Island happened and many of us who had sat on the fence became concerned. Our concern was heightened when we realized that even if we could escape with our lives

in case of an accident, we would be ruined financially.

Utilities, like LILCO, have had themselves indemnified through legislation by the federal government that limits their liability. Many of our homeowners' policies today contain an exclusion that in case of a nuclear accident the insurance company is excused from having to pay any damages.

As oil rose dramatically on the open market, LILCO's rates skyrocketed with its protective fuel adjustment clause. During this same period, municipally owned utilities here on Long Island, in Greenport and Freeport, passed on to their consumers the savings from buying cheap electricity from the New York State Power Authority. LILCO was not able to buy this electricity. This cheap electricity is only available to municipally owned power companies.

Personally, we fear the government entering into any business that is being performed by private enterprise. We do feel that study is warranted so the facts can be brought out. We hope the county does explore not only the possibility of a complete takeover of LILCO, but the advantages of just taking over the acquisition and generation of electricity, leaving LILCO the transmission, distribution and marketing of this vital commodity.

If this study does nothing more it may wake up the directors and management of LILCO to the fact that the company has to be more responsive to the needs of the people. They must be made to realize that the needs of the community are of equal importance to the needs of the corporation.

We will be watching with anticipation the findings of this study.

And why not?

## Little Children Need Good Friends

In a recent editorial we expressed our concern about the attitude of the Department of Social Services in dealing with the lives of young children. We recalled with sadness the plight of a New York City youngster who was taken from the safety of a foster home to be returned to his abusive natural parents, and how the child died as a result of that decision.

We noted, too, a similar case right here in Suffolk County in which the life of a young child could well be put into jeopardy in much the same way, for he may be taken from a foster home where he receives loving care and returned to his natural mother, in whose home he had already received abuse sufficient to require hospitalization.

We have more reason than ever to

be concerned about the attitudes and actions which apparently prevail in the Department of Social Services in dealing with the plight of children. Here's why:

Patty Ann and Keith Bruderle are now secure in the home of their grandparents, having been plucked from the home of their natural mother, where the conditions in which they had to live were so filthy as to be almost unbelievable. They were taken from the filth of that home, not by Social Services, but by volunteers from the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, who are empowered by state law to take such action.

The crime of this story is that a caseworker from Social Services visited the natural mother's home four or five days before the volunteers

took action. That caseworker saw nothing wrong! And, as a matter of fact, a spokesperson for the department, Phyllis Simmons, said in a taped radio interview that "... it wasn't an ideal situation, but things were acceptable."

These are the conditions Social Services thinks are acceptable: overwhelming stench, the children wearing urine-soaked clothing, no food, animal feces in the carpet, human feces ground into the mattress, no sheets on the bed. In the minds of the volunteers from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the conditions were ones of total filth and certainly not conducive to the health and welfare of little children, one of whom, Patty Ann, also suffered from bruises, infections and a human bite which required treatment.

We quite agree with these volunteers, and thank God they were there when the children needed a friend. Certainly, with the "acceptable" attitude expressed by the Department

of Social Services, little children have few friends in that department.

How Social Services could call conditions such as those described above "acceptable" is beyond us. And that is a question which needs to be answered. Suffolk County officials must launch an immediate investigation into the kind of thinking which permits small children to live under such conditions. The lives of young children are too precious to allow them to be threatened by the deplorable lack of concern expressed in this instance — and undoubtedly in others as well.

The Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children is non-profit, funded through donations, a well-trained group of volunteers, who take 451 hours of training. We would urge county officials to make representatives of this group a part of an investigation into the plight of young children whose lives, unfortunately, fall under the control of the Department of Social Services.

And why not?

## Election Law Needs Revision

Laws concerning elections were developed to prevent fraud and to ensure no one could steal an election. As they are written today, they are filled with ambiguities — better known as technicalities. These technicalities thwart the purpose of the election law, as they give the knowledgeable, and the lawyers who have studied the peculiarities, the mechanisms and the weapons to keep candidates off the ballot.

Election law and its rules and regulations should be simple, easy to understand and easy to follow. As the law is written, even the most careful can find their petitions challenged.

Once petitions are filed and objections are charged, it's bedlam at the board of election. The courts are

forced to throw out most complaints, for judges rule that although there may be minor infractions, the intent was carried out. If election laws were rewritten to eliminate petty reasons for challenging the system, the course of filing petitions would run smoother, more people would be encouraged to run independently and the taxpayers would save substantially.

It's too late to do anything about it for this year, but it is something that the county legislature, as well as the New York State Legislature, should address in the coming session. Election law reform should have popular support from the organizations as well as the insurgents, Democrats and Republicans alike.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

A ride from Southampton to Montauk on almost every day takes at least 1½ to 2 hours. Which is a far cry from the gas saving energy we are confronted with. What is holding up a by-pass from Southampton to Montauk, a very, very much-needed road, especially for ambulances that have to go the opposite way. A person has to say a prayer when they call an ambulance in Montauk during the heavy traffic. The main reason I'm writing this is that a few years ago my brother had a heart attack and the traffic was brutal. The ambulance had to stop and administer oxygen to

him. Just as he got to the Southampton Hospital from Montauk his heart gave out, but he was given immediate care and he was revived. Praise God, but now he has passed away and that by-pass is sorely needed. Those that don't want it may someday wish they had. And why not?

Sincerely,  
Capt. Ed (Spider) Hegner  
Montauk

P.S. thank you and God bless you for your excellent writing.

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## The Judge Calling The Kettle Black

### Cohalan's Biggest Challenge

County Executive Peter Cohalan is a decent, talented man. When elected to office, it appeared his biggest challenge would be to control government and the resulting taxation. This is still one of the main priorities but even a larger priority has developed.

Recently we have become aware of numerous cases of child abuse, parents actually torturing children as well as causing them to live in unbelievable filth and starvation.

In last week's edition of Suffolk Life, we published a story of two small, beautiful children under the guidance and care of the Suffolk County Social Services Department who obviously had been wantonly abused. The Social Services investigator called the condition under which they lived "acceptable," and failed to detect anything wrong until after the children had been removed from the Children's Protection Service.

If this was a once in a lifetime, isolated situation, we would be upset, but not angry. Apparently, though, the standard operating procedure of the county's Department of Social Services is such that it permits the abuse, starvation and torture of small children, and fosters the terrible conditions in which some of them

must live.

As county executive, Peter Cohalan has a serious obligation to rip apart the Social Services Department so that it can be rid of the inept management that has condoned such horrible conditions.

Social Services and its head, James Kirby, has had their godfather over the years. Between laws which were designed to afford privacy, which Social Services has hidden behind, and the past politicians who have used this department as a political dumping ground, it has been untouchable. The cost of Social Services has been an easy attack point as it eats up almost 50 percent of the county's overall finances. But here we are not talking about dollars and cents, we are talking about abuse of little children who can't fight back or protect themselves.

Cohalan must totally revamp this department from top to bottom, weeding out those who have shown such indifference and care so little about the charges they are responsible for. It's no easy task, but one that must be accomplished.

If Cohalan does nothing else during his tenure in office, he must accomplish this task.

And why not?

In the wild east of Republican primary battles, Southampton Town has to be the classic of all times. There are estimated to be more than 50 court challenges for committee memberships and the nomination for office itself. The town chairman is actually suing himself, being both petitioner and respondent.

There are two sides in the fight, incumbent Martin Lang and his supporters, and Albert Essay, the insurgent, who has the support of the town's leader, Riley McNeil. McNeil inherited his position as town leader from Supreme Court Judge Lester Gerard, who ascended to the bench in a political deal that had been made between Gerard and some west end town leaders.

The highlight of the pandemonium came last week when Gerard questioned the propriety of attorney Arthur DiPietro, representing the Lang forces, in cases involving petition challenges. DiPietro is also the town attorney and maintains a law practice with county attorney David Gilmartin who, as county attorney, represented the board of elections. Gerard, acting as judge, questioned if there was not a conflict of interest because of the partnership between DiPietro and Gilmartin.

We find this humorous, almost comical, for Gerard as a judge is

supposed to have removed himself totally from politics. Gerard's wife regularly attends GOP functions. In fact, she was taken home from the Maureen Reagan bash at Colonie Hill in February by Riley McNeil. This is a matter of public record. Gerard's insistence that DiPietro step down appears to us to be a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black.

We would have thought, if nothing more than for common sense, which does not necessarily have anything to do with jurisprudence, Gerard, instead of criticizing attorney DiPietro, would have removed himself automatically from this case as it was clear to all that he had a definite conflict of interest. Even the best judge around would have had trouble being an impartial observer in overseeing a political case involving his town in which he was the last political leader and whose wife obviously has maintained ties with the McNeil faction of the organization.

If such an apparently impaired judgment can be brought to play in politics, one must wonder about the entire judicial system and just how far it is removed from politics.

When the smoke clears we pray that it is the good guys who remain standing.

And why not?

### You Are Not The Only One Confused!

Recently we received a note from a reader stating that he was confused by a letter he had received from Congressman William Carney in reference to the editorial we had written on abortion and Social Security.

Carney states in the letter, "There are three Social Security trust funds. Each is maintained separately although all are financed out of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (F.I.C.A.) payroll tax." He goes on to explain the three funds and then states, "Title 20 of the Social Security Act authorizes certain social, welfare services including family planning, which the federal government partially reimburses states for providing. The funding for those Title 20 social services, however, comes from the general revenues of the government, including income taxes, rather than the Social Security (F.I.C.A.) tax."

Carney's second statement contradicts his first, where he maintains all Social Security is financed out of F.I.C.A. taxes and then turns around and says it's not true. Title 20 services are financed out of general revenues of the government. Somewhere in this gobbledygook there is truth, but it is we who are not certain. Nor are we certain our congressman knows either.

Social Security funds originally

were intended to provide retirement income for those over 65. The fund was expanded to include support of the dependents of those who died prematurely, and left widows and minors. Over the years, disability insurance was added, as was health insurance for seniors.

Out of this hodgepodge, eventually, Social Security funds were allowed to be used for a multiple of government, social services or welfare, far from the original intent of what we as contributors thought we were supporting.

According to Carney, it is this gray area the President is attempting to chop out of the Social Security program. Reagan wants to remove from the Social Security system the social welfare items that do not belong in the programs, as well as those people who have never contributed, yet receive benefits.

Like anything else in government, Social Security has become a maze of bureaucratic rules, regulations, benefits and services that has run amuck. If the system is to survive, it must be reduced to its original intent and the social welfare items deleted from the system or transferred to the general services provided by the government.

And why not?

### Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Assembly Bill 1645-A, the "Shoreowners' Protection Act," is not a "bad example of last minute pressure" in the Legislature as you state in your July 22, 1981 issue. This bill is the result of a much-debated problem that has been before the Legislature for years.

It provides for identification by the Department of Environmental Conservation of areas of the state's coastline most threatened by erosion and encourages local authorities to prepare and apply local regulations to prevent or minimize erosion damage in those areas.

At the present time there is no specific protection for erosion hazard areas, and we on Long Island should be the first to know the damage and expense that can result from this oversight. The state is now directed to assist local governments in this responsibility. And why not?

Sincerely,

George J. Hochbrueckner  
Assemblyman, 2nd District  
Port Jefferson Station

Editor's Note: As you well know, our concern is not against efforts to control erosion, but in opposition to the State Department of Environmental Conservation acting as the lead agency. The track record is very clear on the ways this department has mandated various requirements in waste disposal and other areas without regard to the costs and, in far too many cases, without any assurances the mandates would achieve the desired goals. Our argument is for local-home rule rather than the DEC acting as the lead agency, the same concern expressed by most of the officials on the East End of Long Island, who are pushing for an amendment to the bill giving lead agency status to the Bi-County Planning Commission. The concerns expressed by these public officials are based on their experiences in working with DEC and its bureaucratic actions. As an assemblyman you are a state official. But remember, George, it's the local folks who do the voting.

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