

# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Money Well Spent

A critical vote will be held by the Suffolk County Legislature on August 13. The legislature will attempt to override Cohalan on firing the Washington legal firm of Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, who have represented Suffolk County through the Shoreham battle.

The firm has done one heck of a job. In fact, for their own good, too good a job. When Cohalan engaged this firm to fight LILCO, we believe now he thought they did not stand a chance of being successful. The firm was good, and using their expertise has fought LILCO to the wire, winning battle after battle.

The firm is expensive; we as taxpayers have invested over \$12 million, but let's look at the return. Without their input or a meaningful fight by them, LILCO most likely would not have been found to be imprudent in any meaningful way in the construction of Shoreham. Because of their knowledge, their facts, their figures, their research and their presentation, LILCO has been found to be imprudent to the tune of \$1,350,000,000 in the construction of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. This \$1,350,000,000, if upheld, cannot be worked into the rate base and, therefore, the ratepayers of LILCO will not have to pay it.

We don't know how Cohalan does

his math, but anytime I can spend \$1.00 to make \$1,200.50 I will do it, and that is the ratio of return we as Long Island residents have because of the investment made by Suffolk County.

Cohalan claims that the county attorney can handle the affairs of LILCO and Shoreham. The county attorney's office during the past year has lost most of its good legal talent. The county attorney, himself, is a light weight compared to the experts whose speciality is utilities and atomic power plants. Sending Marty Ashare on this legal mission is like hiring an attorney who is an ambulance chaser to defend you in a first degree murder trial.

Attorneys have specialities, and in selecting attorneys, you hire only the best. And Marty Ashare is not the best for the people of Suffolk County.

We understand that Peter Cohalan no longer cares about Suffolk County or the people. We do! And we hope that the legislature does also.

There will be substantial arm-twisting, lobbying, pressure and probably outright threats and intimidation before this critical vote. We say to the legislature, hang tough, we are counting on you. Don't let us down.

And why not?

## Congress Needs Control

We all complain about taxes, particularly federal taxes that take a huge chunk out of our salaries and earning every week. These monies go to pay for necessary programs as well as boondoggles and waste.

Under the present budgetary system, the President submits to Congress a budget for the upcoming year. Congress, which is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate, examines the President's request and adds and subtracts

proposals of their own. During the process, both houses of Congress confer with each other, bargain, dicker and trade. When they have reached a compromise, both houses of Congress vote on the package and send it to the President for his approval or veto. The President has only one option, accepting the package 100 per cent, or vetoing it. The President's hands are tied with this kind of budgetary process and, as a result, we taxpayers end up paying

billions of dollars in taxes that we shouldn't.

During the budgetary process, individual congressmen and senators trade their vote for specialized budget items that may pertain to their district or their "special friends." These items, on their own, would not stand a chance of being accepted. Some of the items are commonly known as "pork barrels," others are tax breaks or inducements for heavy political contributors. They are not for the good of the common people, except that the common people are made to pick up the tab.

The President has asked for, and many in Congress are ready to give him, a line by line veto power. We

applaud this move. Although it is not an "end all" solution, it would allow a President to eliminate much of the waste and abuse that Congress perpetuates on the American people. The items that the President vetoed could be over-ridden by Congress by a specified majority. Most of these items would not stand up to such scrutiny and, therefore, would be eliminated out of the budget, saving the taxpayers billions of dollars.

If you have a moment, we encourage you to drop a note to our two Congressmen, Bill Carney and Tom Downey, and our two New York Senators, Al D'Amato and Patrick Moynihan. Washington D.C. is all the address you need. Tell them of your support for this measure.

And why not?

## The Martians Are Coming

We know it is the ho hum attitude of summer. Nothing much gets done and nobody really cares. This attitude particularly invades government. The various legislators on the county, state and national level conclude their business as early in the summer as they can and go home. The bureaucrats and the employees left behind take their vacations and when forced to work, do so with a noticeable lack of enthusiasm.

As the various legislators were winding up their business, a "blob" developed in the waters of many of our bays. A brown mass seemed to multiply and spread out overnight. For the past six weeks, water that is normally crystal clear has been so tainted that you would swear it was the Hudson River at the Bowery.

Many of us have raised concerns as to what effect this has on humans. Do we dare swim in it? Do we dare eat the shell fish from it? What about the fish? We have persistently called the State D.E.C., and others in the biological community, but nobody seems to know exactly what it is, or what kind of effect it will have. They

think, maybe, it is a natural phenomenon, but then they are not sure. No one knows where it came from or why it is proliferating.

They guess, maybe, it will go away if we get a severe drop in temperature and an atmospheric change. Whether it will go away by being washed out to sea or die and settle to the bottom of our bays, they are not sure.

We do know it is already having a negative effect on the utilization of our beaches and a reluctance to eat shell fish.

We wish our scientific community, particularly those engaged by our governments, could get their act together to come to some meaningful conclusion that could give all of us some reassurance.

We suspect this might be asking too much of our government on vacation, and cannot expect any answer until they return in the fall. But then, who in the summer would care if the martians are coming, or a brown disgusting "blob" takes over our waters?

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Anti-government to be a Democrat'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have submitted the same letter twice to you and to no avail. It seems your partisan paper treats Democrats as if we are victims of herpes.

I have also noticed that whenever you "report" on the doings of anyone running on a Democratic platform you seem to leave part of the article somewhere on the floor of your office. (I am referring to an article written about Mr. John Knapp in July 26, 1985 issue).

Since when did it become so anti-government to be a Democrat? You'd think I was a communist! It seems strange that people that I know have their letters published; usually blasting John Rosso. I know for a fact that they are Republicans. Is that the way you hide your partisan attitudes in your "paper"?

You can print my name this time if you dare but watch out Suffolk County none of you can truly afford to be Republicans! Get to the polls "CLOSET DEMOCRATS" and take part in your government or someday we'll wake up under a dictatorship!!!

Yours truly,  
Ms. Julia Pampalone  
Shirley

Editor's note: Suffolk Life is an independent newspaper, we don't favor the Republicans, or the Democrats, or any other political party. If a letter is not used, it is because of the large volume of mail received by this publication, not the politics of the writer. It is not clear what you are trying to say about an article concerning John Knapp, a Democratic candidate in Brookhaven Town. If any cutting of articles is done, it happens to candidates from all parties because we simply don't have space to run all the political rhetoric we receive during an election year. Candidates have every opportunity to have their full comments published in the advertising portion of this publication. If we run letters from Republicans blasting an official from their own party, it is most likely because he, or she, has earned their criticism. We would hope the voters heed your advice about getting to the polls. It would be healthy for government if the voters took the time to become more knowledgeable and more involved. From all political parties.

## SUFFOLK LIFE

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NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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Monches Ronkonkoma



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## What Are They Hiding

The 1985 election season has erupted in a very unusual way over a judicial position normally exempt from political controversy. In this case, however, politics has reared its ugly head in a couple of ways. The first came from the political headquarters and the second from the Suffolk County Bar Association.

instances are tragic. The race involved is that for Suffolk County Surrogate. The incumbent, Judge Ernest L. Signorelli, has evoked the wrath of the political party because he has not played the political game. His crime, it seems, is he has not played the game the way County Republican Leader Mike Blake wants it played. He has handed out assignments from his court to attorneys based on their merit, not on their political connections. And so, the GOP by-passed Signorelli for renomination, giving its blessing to County Court Judge Kenneth Rohl of Babylon instead.

The Suffolk County Bar Association then came into the act. In their process of "rating" both Signorelli and Rohl on their qualifications, Signorelli charges, the Association permitted a member of the Judiciary Committee who has had close ties to Judge Rohl to vote on his qualification rating. In fact, Signorelli charges, that attorney serves as Rohl's election campaign county coordinator. If that individual had not been permitted to vote, according to Signorelli, Rohl would not have received the "highly qualified" rating the Bar Association bestowed upon him. Signorelli, on the other had, received a lower "qualified" rating.

It is unfortunate that politics has been permitted to tarnish this race. This is a position that serves the public in many different ways, and the only criteria should be the use of the best qualified people to do that job in the best possible way. That's not the way Mike Blake sees it however. He has been quoted as saying, "He never gave us any patronage."

That kind of greedy nonsense does not belong in this race. Hopefully the rank and file Republicans, who will have an opportunity to decide between Rohl and Signorelli in the September primary, will vote according to qualifications rather than political greed.

The Bar Association's rating procedures have come under fire many times before. That procedure is nothing more than attorneys attempting to influence the outcome, through the use of ratings, of judicial contests. Thus attorneys have the opportunity to give a lower rating to a hard-nose judge who has no sympathy with the antics of some attorneys, and higher ratings to those who bend the rules to suit the legal profession. They have been the target of charges of having done so in the past, and are now the subject of charges that they are permitting blatant conflict of interest to invade the rating process again.

A hearing was scheduled to be held earlier this month on the charges. But the rules of that hearing excluded both the public and the press; there would be no court reporter present to make a permanent record of the proceedings; unsworn testimony would be taken from witnesses, meaning there would be no penalty for any lies told; Signorelli was to be excluded when witnesses testified, and he was also denied the privilege of cross examining any witness.

Talk about a kangaroo court! What are they hiding? Are they afraid the truth may come out? Are they acting behind closed and locked doors to spare those who may be involved in the conflict of interest? Where is the integrity in all this?

In our view, the Bar Association has lost its credibility, and the public should be keenly aware of its activities. With all of the hue and cry about the courts and the judges being the prime cause of turnstile justice, permitting criminals to walk loose

while the police officers are still filling out the arrest reports, we may well look to the Bar Association's rating system as a contributor to this problem.

Unless the Bar Association acts to clear the air about its actions in the Rohl-Signorelli controversy, its rating system should be considered nothing less than an effort by the legal profession to feather its own

nest by influencing the judicial election process, not for the sake of putting qualified judges on the bench but as a means of putting sympathetic judges in place to foster their own aims.

If we're going to have integrity in the courts, we have to have integrity at the beginning of the process. Unfortunately, we don't have that now. And why not?

## Holdup From Headquarters

The gang that is now running the Suffolk County Republican organization is trying to outdo their brethren who were once running the Nassau County Republican organization.

The Nassau County Republican organization currently is in court defending itself against allegations that the organization demanded a kickback of one percent from the county employees salaries. Under the Nassau system, it is alleged, before an employee was given a job or before being given a raise they had to tentatively agree to reimburse the Republican organization one percent of their salary in order to get the job or the raise.

Michael Blake, Suffolk County Republican boss, recently sent out a strongly worded letter, we understand, to all county employees making over \$25,000 per year. The letter demanded that they join the Chairman's Club. The dues for the Chairman's Club are \$500 per year. For a \$25,000 a year employee, that is two percent.

Suffolk County employees are reminded that if they fail to join the Chairman's Club that Mike Blake will take it as a personal affront to his leadership of the Republican organization. The organization will feel that the employee is indicating he or she does not have faith in the organization that is feeding it.

Blake's letter could be construed as an outright shake down. At best it is in poor taste. But this kind of fund raising is not unknown to Michael Blake.

Blake was once the subject of a grand jury investigation over fund raising in Babylon. According to the minutes of the grand jury, Blake had

sold \$10,000 worth of tickets to a contractor seeking changes before the planning board. The tickets that Blake sold were to an affair that had been held a month prior to when Blake sold the tickets. Obviously, the contractor was not planning on breaking bread with Blake and dancing the night away when he purchased the tickets a month after the affair had been held.

The grand jury concluded that if Blake had been subject to the same rules and regulations governing elected officials, what he had done would have been an indictable crime.

Political leaders are not covered by the same laws as elected officials and they are free to buy and sell political favors, through fund raisers, contributions or whatever they chose to call the holdups. It was this kind of holdup and shakedown that led to the charges of political corruption that permeated Suffolk County politics for years.

When Cohalan came into office he pledged to clean up the county. He did in the beginning. Then Cohalan changed most of his loyal supporters and brought back the old guard. Cohalan changed. The Republican organization has changed, but have those who are now in power? Or are they just back doing business as usual?

This latest and most blatant attempt is a disgrace that should be rectified by the rank and file and the committeemen this fall.

As Cohalan was fond of saying, "Good politics makes good government and obviously, bad politics makes bad government." This is politics at the pits.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Wake up and smell the coffee'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This is not the first time that I have expressed my anger over Shoreham and the Long Island Lighting Co. But, now we have Peter Cohalan, the man behind the people, or so we all thought. He has allowed this nightmare to begin. In one short week, there have been two accidents. The plant isn't even at full power. God help us if they allow full power. Somebody, please wake up and smell the coffee! I hate living in fear, Mr. Cohalan. At any given time, one of those brilliant expert employees at LILCO could kill us all. Thank you very much Mr. Cohalan.

I'd also like to comment on the intelligent "politician" who was quoted in the Penysaver as saying "suddenly all the

housewives on L.I. are Nuclear Experts." It doesn't take a nuclear expert to know that Shoreham wasn't constructed properly and that the experts that are operating the plant are not qualified. But "Mr. Politician" it takes only a JACK... to think that the plant is safe. Just look at the past week, and any housewife on L.I. could tell you two accidents a few days apart is quite evident that this power plant is not safe and does not operate correctly.

So before we kill everyone let's shut the thing down, or convert to coal, oil or anything that's not going to kill us ALL!!!!

Thank you, Mr. Willmott, for listening to me again.

Mrs. Terri Caldara  
Manorville

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# Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Thank You Long Island

With today's edition, we mark the 25th Anniversary of the first publication of Suffolk Life.

A mere 25-years ago we started this newspaper to serve you. We thank you for the opportunity you have given us. We thank you for your readership, your loyal support. We have only grown because you have acknowledged our efforts on your behalf.

Suffolk Life was dedicated to you 25 years ago. We are dedicated to you now and will be for the next 25 years. We are here to be of service, to be your voice, the voice of the average citizen. We are your advocate and, in some cases, your court of last resort.

Suffolk County is a wonderful com-

munity, made up of multiple nationalities, personalities and interests. Many of our problems are mutual, and these we champion. We hope to be able to continue to be your watchdog over government, politics and big business.

Because you have shown your support in numerous ways, we have faith in you and we hope that you have faith in us.

We pray to God for the wisdom and the strength to carry forth your desires, your dictates. As we commemorate our first edition 25 years ago this week, we would like to say we love you all. It has been a pleasure to have served your needs.

And why not?

## Abandonment Is Their Idea of Evacuation

A candidate for a legislative district in Eastern Long Island, Keith Kammerer, recently released a report from the N.R.C. that acknowledges their insensitivity and wanton disregard for human life.

Dr. Thomas Urbanik, on behalf of the N.R.C., is quoted in the report as saying "in case of evacuation at Shoreham we intend to block the Long Island Expressway to create the illusion that the Expressway is not a viable route for escape for East Enders."

His theory is that when people, who are trying to escape from nuclear death and destruction on the East End, see that the Long Island Expressway is congested beyond hope, they will turn around and go back to the East End. What the N.R.C. is saying is that the 125,000 year rounders here on the East End, the 200,000 second homeowners and the 400,000 day trippers who visit the East End of the Island during the tourist season, are destined to suffer whatever fate the gods may have in store for them.

The N.R.C. consultant proposes the blocking of our major road for escape! It was this kind of thinking that led to the creation of gas chambers for the Jews, the gypsies and the Poles. With the release of the television series "Holocaust," Christians and Jews raised their voice in a cry of "never again." Yet is there any difference in creating a "gas chamber" for those who oppose Shoreham and who fear for their lives, by deliberately blocking whatever chance we have for escape when Shoreham has an accident and the wind is blowing from the north west to the south east? Does it make any difference if we die in a gas chamber or if we die an agonizing death located in our East End Long Island because of a lethal dose of radiation? Are the monied interest of LILCO and the federal government so important they would actually sacrifice the lives of our people?"

Their true colors have been revealed, we are expendable. Our lives are not worth a tinkers damn in their estimation. Profits, money and

greed are their god. This is the God of President Ronald Reagan, the man who is the head of the United States government, who should be responsible for the action of this agency. This is the God of Congressman William Carney, Senator Al D'Amato and Senator Daniel Moynihan, who have refused to lift their finger to give us representation in Washington.

This is the God of William Catacosinos, the chairman of LILCO and the Board of Directors and the financial interests who stand to make millions the moment Shoreham gets a full power license.

Well fellow Eastenders, we know who the enemy is. Now our only hope is to pray to our true God that he intervenes and saves our lives.

And why not?

## Shoreham At Any Cost?

Few would argue--even among the ranks of the most ardent supporters of the Shoreham nuclear power plant--that LILCO has any credibility left. LILCO officials have gone to any extreme possible, fracturing the truth time and time again, to achieve their ultimate goal: putting Shoreham on line. It now turns out that LILCO is a good teacher when it comes to credibility. Several groups organized and financially supported by the utility have come under fire for the same lack of credibility.

Citizens to Open Shoreham, which has received more than \$600,000 in funding from LILCO, banks which have financed the utility, and the nuclear industry, have for some time been loose with the truth in their statements and radio ads about the plant. Many of the originators of this group come from the Shoreham-Wading River School District and their motivation is the preservation of the taxes which support about 95 per cent of the district's exorbitant spending. This district spends more than twice as much on students as other districts.

A recent political mailing, supposedly from a group called "Democrats to Open Shoreham," has come under fire because it violates state election laws. The mailing was actually from the Citizens to Open Shoreham which didn't bother to register as a political committee with the Board of Elections, as is required by law. That mailing also fractures the truth, claiming that funds for the legal fight against the plant have taken millions of dollars from "vital services" such as social services, medical assistance, aid for handicapped children and education for the handicapped. The head of the legislature's budget review office labeled that claim "absolutely untrue," noting funds came from those categories in which excess funds existed, and therefore did not impact the vital services categories.

COS and another LILCO group known as E.L.E.C.T. (Employee Legislative Emergency Communication Team--made up of LILCO employees and retirees) were involved in an effort last week to sway the outcome of a poll on the Shoreham issue being taken by County Legislator Joseph Rizzo of Islip. Rizzo has been among those pressured by E.L.E.C.T. members in their all out effort to lobby legislators to support the opening of the plant. An E.L.E.C.T. member asked Rizzo for a copy of his poll, which Rizzo gave him but not before doctoring up that

copy by signing his name "Joe Rizzo" instead of "Joseph Rizzo" as it appeared on the questionnaire he mailed out.

The copy given to E.L.E.C.T. made its way into the hands of COS which mailed them out to COS members and LILCO employees. When they started coming back to Rizzo's office, bearing the "Joe" signature, Rizzo labled the actions a "fraud" and cancelled his poll. James Blew, an organizer for COS, claimed at first he "didn't know" how COS got the copy of the poll, then said it must have come from a LILCO employee, but refused to identify that employee because he did not want to "get any one in trouble." If you're not doing anything wrong, there's no worry about trouble, is there?

What was COS worrying about? Are they so concerned that an honest poll will reveal the true depths of public feeling about Shoreham that they had to try to doctor the results? Are they so afraid of the truth that they must stoop to deceit and lies?

The District Attorney should immediately launch an investigation into the political activities of COS to determine any violations of state Election Law, and take appropriate action if such violations exist. While we realize the leaders of the county Republican organization are pro-Shoreham, and District Attorney Patrick Henry is running for reelection, his duty is to the people and he must actively pursue an investigation into this matter.

Another pro-Shoreham advocate, County Executive Peter Cohalan, appeared on a nationally televised program Sunday morning and the focus was on Shoreham in that interview. Cohalan had some interesting comments to make:

He was asked if Shoreham was needed. He said "No."

Why then, he was asked, risk the health and safety of the public if Shoreham is not needed. He said: "Because it's there."

The newsmen seemed incredulous, and asked that same question again. And Cohalan, each time the question was asked, said: "Because it's there."

We noticed something very different about Cohalan during the program. His voice has lost its fire. It's very weak. With little feeling.

It's our guess that when you lose the strength of your character, and your moral sense of right and wrong, the voice is the next to go. What's next? And why not?

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## Taken From The Public, Give Back To The Public

When LILCO paid their past due taxes, a surplus was created in Suffolk County finances. When LILCO first withheld the taxes, the shortage was covered by borrowing and the use of all excess funds county government could get its hands on. Subsequent withholding caused the need to raise sales and property taxes last year.

Now that LILCO has paid its taxes, the politicians are trying to figure out what to do. The common sense, the logical and the proper thing to do is to give back the taxes to the public by reducing taxes. After all, the public had to dig deeper to make up for LILCO's arrogant action.

Suffolk County taxpayers are the highest taxed in the nation. Any relief we can get is welcomed. It is foolish to even think about using these taxes to buy more government. We already have too much government.

The situation concerning Shoreham is so tenuous that any day now LILCO may not be able to pay

any of their taxes, and the shortfall will be created again. Furthermore, if by some miracle Shoreham is licensed and allowed to go on line and can generate the electricity that it was planned to provide, the management of LILCO plans to close down other generating facilities throughout Long Island that they are now paying taxes on. When these facilities are closed, the tax levies will either be reduced or eliminated, and these shortfalls will have to be made up.

Shoreham, at best, if operating, will mean nothing more in the long run than a transfer of tax bases from one area to another.

It is not the windfall that the politicians and LILCO would have you believe. Is it asking too much of our county executive and the legislature to exercise some common sense and do what is right for the public by using the surplus to reduce their tax burden?

And why not?

## Creating Tent Cities

Throughout Suffolk County there are numerous camp grounds owned by the state and the county. In these camps, folks from throughout the state, and particularly the county, spend their vacations. They bring to these camp grounds campers on trucks, campers towed and tents. It's a great, fairly inexpensive way to get away on vacation, an activity that can be pursued by the whole family.

This past week we learned that the Suffolk County Welfare Department was dumping welfare recipients in camp grounds as an alternate means of housing. We learned of this through a police report where an incident had led to inclusion in the blotter.

According to what we have been able to ascertain, the family involved had been shifted on again, off again between the Sears Bellows Park in Hampton Bays to the Indian Island Park in Riverhead. The whole family was living out of a tent and because one of the children had beaten up on some child, the incident was brought to police attention.

The welfare department confirmed that they are paying for families to stay in the camp grounds. Park officials also confirmed that these arrangements have caused numerous problems. We think it is a disgrace. The family in question is a family of five, with a three week old baby. They are living in a tent with a sanitation device. Their refriger-

ation is a cooler, and their other camping necessities are as bleak. How would you like to try and take care of a three-week-old infant under such primitive and oppressive conditions? Efforts to determine from the parks department and Social Service how long this camp ground residency lasts have been unsuccessful.

The parks in Suffolk County were not established, nor were they intended, to serve the housing needs of the county's unfortunate. Most people who go camping prepare themselves for a semi back to nature way of life that camping offers. They bring the gear and the equipment necessary.

We wonder how well-equipped the welfare campers are. Are their sanitary and hygiene needs being met? Is their ability to cook three square nourishing meals taken from them by having to use camp grounds? What about the people who go camping expecting peace and quiet? Are their rights being infringed upon by welfare recipients who are being forced to live in semi-primitive conditions? Are camp grounds as alternate housing allowed by the federal and state guidelines for the treatment of welfare recipients?

We think we know the answers. The situation stinks and cries out for attention by fair minded, compassionate people in government.

And why not?

## Admitting Guilt, Refusing Responsibility is Not Justice

The Suffolk County Bar Association sent Chief Surrogate Ernest Signorelli a letter this week whereby they admitted there had been improprieties in their screening process. As a result, Signorelli's opponent in the September 10 primary, received a higher rating from the association.

Their solution to this was to invite the candidates back in for a rescreening, when they knew full well that Kenneth Rohl had already prepared and sent out mailings to registered Republicans stating that the Bar Association had given Rohl a higher rating, a mailing that could not be retracted, which created an illusion that would confuse the voters.

From where we stand, we believe the Bar Association has an ethics problem and has totally discredited itself as impartial observers or seekers of the truth. Michael Blake, the County Republican boss has admitted the reason that Signorelli did not receive the GOP designation for the line was that Signorelli would not give Blake, Cohalan and Company the keys to the Surrogate's office. He did not play the political patronage game. Instead, he appointed the best qualified lawyers, not the best politically connected.

The one judge all of us will come in contact with, although not when we are alive, is the surrogate judge. The surrogate's office will read and probate any wills and dispose of our estates. If you leave an estate worth over \$40,000, which all but the poorest of us have, this disbursement will go through the probate court. The chief surrogate will assign court appointed attorneys, accountants, and if necessary, trust people to oversee the disbursement and, in some cases, act as guardian for the lifetime of the estate. Most of these assignments are to attorneys. They will be paid

fees that will be approved by the surrogate's office. Who the surrogate is will determine whether our estates are swiftly, fairly and economically disposed of, or turned into political plums milked dry by the patronage dispensed out of political headquarters, but taken out of the inheritance of widows and children.

Signorelli has refused to play the political game and now he is paying the political price. His nomination for reelection is being challenged by Mike Blake, Peter Cohalan and the good old boys who know what a gigantic plum the Surrogates Court can be to the clubhouse boys.

Registered Republicans will decide on September 10 who they want as their party's standard bearer. They will vote in the privacy of a booth. This is one time we think every registered Republican should vote and vote for themselves, not the greed of the party leaders.

The question voters will have to ask themselves is whether Rohl will play the patronage game which Signorelli refused to become involved in. While we have no quarrel with Ken Rohl, his designation would seem to indicate the GOP leaders are sure he will play the game their way. We're sorry to see Rohl involved in this power struggle between party greed and the public's best interests.

The key question the public must ask is this: do they want their estate probated by Mike Blake, Peter Cohalan and the clubhouse boys whose greed for patronage caused them to pick Rohl over Signorelli, or do they want it probated by a judge who has shown his independence, his honesty, his concern and care for the people in the past? The future of the Surrogate's Court could depend on the answer you give in the polling booth.

And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE

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

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

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### NEW LOCATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

1461 Old Country Rd. (Route 58)  
Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-2026

Main & General  
Office  
369-0800

News  
Office  
369-0810

Classified  
Office  
369-0820