

The Reagan Conspiracy

President Ronald Reagan must take full responsibility for how Long Island is being treated at the hands of the federal government. As President Harry Truman said, "The buck stops here," at his desk.

For as long as Reagan has been President, Long Islanders have been crying out for protection against the opening of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. They have looked to the Reagan Administration for intervention, and have received none. Have we been looking at the enemy to save us from himself?

The Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant was ill-conceived, horrendously misbuilt and poses a grave threat to our health, safety and welfare. The N.R.C., an agency of the federal government, is charged with protecting us from the ills of nuclear energy. They are charged with regulating the utilities that use nuclear power for the development of energy. The N.R.C. operates under rules and regulations that were set down by Congress to insure the safety of the people who live in proximity of the plants.

We have witnessed almost on a daily basis the N.R.C. not only aiding, but conspiring, with LILCO to avoid these regulations and to circumvent the intentions of Congress. Washington is saying to Long Island, your lives are disposable, the profit making corporation, LILCO, is not.

This past week, the Suffolk County Legislature approved a desperate move authorizing the floating of over \$7 billion worth of bonds to purchase control of the Long Island Lighting Company to stop the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant from ever operating. In effect what Suffolk County did was put its money where its mouth is. It should have signaled the federal government that we, Long Islanders, care more for safety than we do for money. We value our lives and our quality of life. We cannot live with a nuclear power plant that has every

capability of being another Chernobyl in our backdoor. We are saying to the federal government you allowed this plant to be built in the wrong place. You made a mistake. The New York State Public Service Commission made a mistake. The Long Island Lighting Company made a mistake. We, as citizens, are so fearful of your mistakes and we have so little belief in your credibility that we are willing to take our hard earned money now and for the next 20 years and buy you out of your mistakes.

To accomplish our goal, which is our safety and welfare, we want to use the same mechanism that every other municipality around the country has used, the issuance of tax free bonds. This is allowed under our present tax system. In fact, it has been encouraged by the federal government. The federal government, through the Treasury Department, wrote the rules which say very plainly a municipality, to meet a public need, may issue tax free bonds. The federal law allows the municipality, between the time that they issue the initial bonds and the money is needed to fund the project, to develop arbitrage and to use this arbitrage to fund the financing plan. It has been common practice, and has thousands of already successful projects as an example.

The federal government may change its rules and regulations after September 1, but right now, the law of the land is that it is a legal procedure, and the purchases of these bonds are allowed tax free status.

Before last Monday's vote at the Suffolk County Legislature enacting the Suffolk County Electric Company had been completed, before the Treasury Department had an opportunity to know the facts surrounding the proposal, before the Treasury Department had been presented with a copy of the plan or the underwriting

documents, the Treasury Department issued a letter stating that they questioned the tax free status of these bonds. This is unprecedented. This is President Reagan's gift to Long Island as a token of his appreciation for the region in the United States which gave him his biggest plurality in his two races for President.

Considering the fact LILCO officials met with Treasury officials, believe the Treasury ruling is part of the federal conspiracy to open Shoreham at all cost. Change the rules, bend the rules, break the law, but open Shoreham. Put the 3,000,000 people who live on Long Island in jeopardy. Their lives are disposable. Change the name of Long Island to "Plastic Island."

We find it hard to believe that President Reagan, a man we love and respect, could knowingly subject the people who have shown him such support to such abusive and probably illegal, treatment at the hands of his administration. We can only assume his aide and the bureaucrats he surrounds himself with are deliberately keeping him in the dark, and, using assumed powers, are making decisions, acting in concert, conspiracy, to defranchise us of our rights and liberties as United States citizens. They are part of the con-

spiracy that willingly sells the American public's rights, guaranteed under the constitution, to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, for corrupt monetary gains.

Senator Alphonse D'Amato is running for re-election this November. He is a Republican who was elected under the slogan, "D'Amato, your last chance for survival." This may be D'Amato's last chance for survival on Long Island. Unless he is able to turn Washington around, to bring the President our concerns and the obvious pattern of conspiracy involved with Shoreham, he does not deserve to be re-elected.

D'Amato should immediately demand a meeting with the President and an explanation to Long Islanders as to why we are being blocked in Washington every step of the way. If D'Amato has the power a Senator should, he will immediately have the Treasury Department meet with Suffolk County representatives, and once they have ascertained the facts, withdraw their letter of opposition and give the financing of the Suffolk County Electric Company their full blessing.

D'Amato must prove to Long Island in action, more than just words, that the only conspiracy he is part of is ours, and that is to stop Shoreham from ever going on line.

And why not?

"An Informed Viewpoint"

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently, as had been expected, reversed the rulings of a licensing panel and an appeals board in order to give the LILCO evacuation plan new life. The board based its decision—by a 3 to 1 vote—on the assumption that state and county governments would respond in the event of an accident at the plant.

In overturning the rulings of the two lower boards, the three NRC commissioners declared they believe the state and county would utilize the utility designed plan, despite the fact that both levels of government had insisted they would not do so.

NRC Commissioner James Asselstine opposed the ruling. Asselstine's dissenting views offer an insight into the way the NRC majority continues to bend over backwards to continually puts its goal of licensing Shoreham before its concerns for the safety of the people. Commissioner Asselstine's views are those of an informed source who is not anti-Shoreham, but pro-safety. Here's what he said in his statement of opposition to the recent ruling:

"The Commission's decision today endorses the idea that a nuclear plant may be allowed to operate without state and local government participation in or cooperation with emergency planning. This decision, in effect, takes the "planning" out of emergency planning and thereby undermines the foundation upon which our emergency planning regulations are based. The Commission's decision is riddled with assumptions which seem to be supported by nothing more than wishful thinking.

"The whole reason for the Commission's emergency planning regulations was the realization after the Three Mile Island accident that in the case of an emergency with the

potential for significant offsite radiation releases there would be insufficient time to make arrangements to protect the people living around nuclear plants. For this reason, the Congress and the Commission felt it essential to require advance planning. This prior planning is designed to ensure that a variety of protective actions are available to respond to serious nuclear accidents and that whichever protective actions are necessary can be implemented quickly and smoothly. In adopting its new emergency planning regulations, the Commission expressly recognized that participation in planning by state and local governments and coordination between the governments and the licensee was central to effective emergency planning.

"Congress provided, however, that the Commission could consider, in the absence of an approved state or local plan, whether a state, local or utility emergency preparedness plan, or some integration of these plans, provides reasonable assurance that public health and safety is not endangered by the operation of the plant. Thus, as a purely abstract legal matter, the Commission is correct in saying that we are authorized to consider a utility plan alone. However, that should not end the inquiry. The Commission must also consider whether the Commission should permit consideration of a utility plan where not only no state or local plan exists, but where the state and local governments refuse to participate in or cooperate with emergency planning.

"This is not a case in which one local government or the state government alone has refused to participate in emergency planning and another governmental unit can take up the slack. [All] of the responsible
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General Information

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

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Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

"An Informed . . ."

Cont. from page 3

governmental entities are refusing to participate in any way, shape or form in emergency planning for the Shoreham plant. There will, therefore, be [no] governmental replanning and [no] governmental coordination with LILCO. Moreover, according to the N.Y. courts, LILCO does not have the legal authority to carry out certain governmental functions which are fundamental to an emergency response. All governmental responses will, therefore, be [ad hoc] even if, as the Commission assumes, the state and local governments do respond in the case in an emergency, and even if, as the Commission assumes, the state and local governments decide to implement the LILCO plan. (The Commission also assumes that the LILCO plan is really only an interim compensating measure because once the Shoreham plant is licensed the State or County will see the light and begin to cooperate with LILCO and participate in emergency planning for Shoreham. The Commission's assumptions seem to be based on not much more than wishful thinking.) Emergency plans are complicated. If an emergency plan is to work smoothly, everyone must be familiar with the plan and his or her responsibilities under the plan. As the Commission's regulations recognize, this requires governmental cooperation, training and rehearsal. Given the positions of the state and local governments in this case, none of these fundamental preparatory steps will be taken.

"The question is, then, should the Commission under these circumstances consider a utility plan alone? I believe not. What the Commission decides today is that a completely [ad hoc] response by the state and local governments might be sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that there will be adequate protection of the public in the event of an emergency. I cannot conceive of circumstances in which that would be the case. The Commission's decision amounts to a judgment that

the core of emergency planning need not exist. The Commission's endorsement of such an idea undercuts the very foundation of emergency planning.

"I am equally troubled by another aspect of the Commission's order. The Commission says that LILCO ought to be given a chance to show that even if the state and local emergency response is [ad hoc] there will be reasonable assurance that the LILCO plan is, in the event of an accident, capable of achieving dose reductions "that are generally comparable to what might be accomplished with government cooperation." Unfortunately, it is not clear exactly what that means. The Commission specifically rejects the Licensing Board and Appeal Board decisions which presumed that the LILCO plan must be capable of establishing the same level of assurance that a plan with governmental cooperation would achieve. Is the Commission permitting a lesser level of assurance for the LILCO plan? For example, if the [ad hoc] nature of governmental response would foreclose certain protective action, would the Commission still find the LILCO plan acceptable as long as the dose reductions would be "generally comparable" to a plan with governmental cooperation? Unfortunately, the Commission does not clearly explain what it intends. The Commission certainly should not be permitting Shoreham to meet a lesser standard of protection for the public than other plants in the country have been required to meet.

"I am not convinced that the licensee could, in the absence of any governmental cooperation, establish the same level of assurance as if there were a plan coordinated with the state and local governments. Further, I do not believe that the Commission should establish a precedent which would allow for an [ad hoc] response on fundamental aspects of emergency planning -- in this case the core of emergency planning."

Letters to the Editor

'Legislation on public power'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The present Brookhaven Town Board has, in general, done an outstanding job. However, I am disappointed by its action, regarding the legislation, establishing a Public Power Authority. Brookhaven will lose the value of LILCO's assets from its tax rolls, when a public takeover is affected. To overcome the severity of the impact on the taxpayer, a SOP has been developed in the form of spreading the increase in real property taxes over ten years. One year, ten years or whatever, the fact remains that eventually we will be forced to make up the loss one hundred per cent. Add this increase to that, which the county will also be forced to impose upon us and, even with a possible cut in utility rates, we will wind up

losers.

The Town Board could have held out for something similar to what was done for the Southwest Sewer District residents.

I might be more highly incensed over this action if I thought a public takeover of LILCO were imminent. However, using Gov. Cuomo's promises of Sunrise Highway improvements in our area as a criterion, I'll be tripping over my beard before the state takes over LILCO.

Edmund P. Peace
Patchogue

Editor's Note:

Only Shoreham will be phased down. All other LILCO property will continue to pay taxes as if they were owned by LILCO.

'Crackdown on dumping'

Letter to the Editor:

Contrary to what some newspaper articles might lead you to believe, the Town's recent "crack-down" on illegal dumping by commercial carters at the North Sea Landfill was anything but politically motivated.

According to the Town's enforcement agency, the carter carried a rolloff container of demolition material from the town of Brookhaven across the Brookhaven-Southampton Town line and proceeded to dump the load of debris in the North Sea landfill.

This is in violation of the town code, and could be grounds for revocation of a company's privilege to use the landfill.

The fact that the summons was issued to a particular Southampton carter who also has run unsuccessfully for public office is not of the Town Board's making.

Illegal dumping at the North Sea landfill area has apparently been on the rise, particularly since our neighboring towns, Brookhaven and Riverhead have recently increased their "tipping fees" for commercial carters. At the same time, the Town of Southampton as a public service for our residents and taxpayers, continues to have a one-time yearly fee of \$250.00 for commercial carters. The intention of low fee's was to help keep our commercial (business) and residential fee's for homeowners garbage collection as low as possible.

However, the low fees were not meant to encourage abuses by the carting industry, as providing a site for brush and demolition material is an accommodation, and not a mandated service local municipalities must provide.

"Dump" running a 30 cubic yard rolloff container of brush or demolition material from Brookhaven to the town's North Sea landfill will save the contractor \$240.00. If the contents of the 30 cubic yard rolloff was household or commercial garbage, the savings (per load) would be \$180.00; as Brookhaven charges carters \$7.50 per cubic yard of brush, and \$6.00 per cubic yard of garbage.

A tractor trailer of brush is charged a flat fee of \$350.00 at Brookhaven, so you can see why there is the potential for huge financial "windfalls" for those characters who break the law, and do so without being caught.

We are happy to provide this Landfill service to the residents and business concerns throughout the Township, but we will insist that the carting industry comply fully with our dumping and landfill ordinances. Failure to do so will most certainly jeopardize carters permit to use the North Sea landfill site.

To those few who have been abusing the privileges of our landfill for personal gain at the expense of our homeowners and taxpayers, let me assure each and every one of you that we will continue to monitor the movement of refuse coming into the Town of Southampton, and violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The bottom line is that should a commercial carter be judged guilty of transporting and dumping illegal refuse anywhere within the Town of Southampton, he could very well lose his dumping permit, and in the long run, no doubt his business.

Supervisor Martin Lang
Southampton Town

'No landfills over water source'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

How sad and distressful that the Town Board of Smithtown would even remotely consider an ashfill site over a deep water recharge area that provides water for Long Island. No amount of clay or space age plastic liner will keep toxins from eventually contaminating our water supply, according to solid waste expert, William Sanjour of the Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. News and World Report, April 23, 1986).

To add insult to injury, the elected officials of Smithtown want the state to amend the new water protection laws for their convenience instead of considering the health and safety of everyone.

Nassau County should provide the warning to Suffolk County and state politicians who are making the decisions on location of resource recovery plants and ashfill sites. Carcinogenic compounds have been found in Nassau's deep underground aquifer 16 times that of federal guidelines and the source of that county's

drinking water is contaminated. Landfills are being shut down and garbage shipped off the island. Is the whole story being told there?

Yes, garbage is everyone's problem and the politician's nightmare but health and safety of the people now and for the future should be the number one priority when considering solutions to the problem. No landfills or resource recovery plants should be placed near a Zone One hydrogeologic boundary and I hope and pray that the State Department of Environmental Conservation and our elected state officials have the strength to support the law that protects our drinking water and not defer to Smithtown or any other town!

Since the Challenger disaster, everyone should be skeptical and question decision-making processes that affect lives and I sure am skeptical of the Smithtown Board and their motives on this one!

Yours truly,
Mary Scott
Commack

'Long Island must be protected'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It is of great concern, that proponents of "Lilco Shoreham" nuclear plant and N.R.C. fail to recognize the dangers of waste and discharges from nuclear generating plants.

Three Mile Island, Russia's Cheronobyl and England's disastrous, Seacastle, Selafin plant, where leukemia is ten times the national average, the discharge from that plant, pumped five miles out to sea, is washed back, in hazardous chemically poisoned sea bottom, and where no fish can survive in the water for

40 square miles. Bathing is prohibited, and agriculture is contaminated and unfit for human consumption as is fresh water in that location.

Long Island and other areas must be protected from such a calamity.

No more nuclear plans should be built anywhere. There are alternatives; wind power, water power, solar energy and natural gas reserves for 300 years.

W. Harer
Patchogue

'Thanks from Maryhaven Center'

Dear News Director:

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the clients and staff of Maryhaven Day Treatment Center to thank you for covering Balloon Day. The interest and coverage of our special event is greatly appreciated.

In the future we will make it a point to notify you of any newsworthy stories or events. As of this writing a "Carnival Day" is being discussed, which you may be interested in cover-

ing. The Recreation Department of Maryhaven Day Treatment Center will contact you about details if this materializes.

Once again, thank you for your interest and coverage of Balloon Day.

Sincerely,
Donna Robbins-Jordan
Phillip Maroney
Joan Kraynak
Port Jefferson

'Know the legal size of catch'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

"Blue Marlin Plethora" goes into the class of the buffalo in the West.

Why not take a picture of the length and girth of fish on the boat and then release the fish.

Florida's game fishing laws are posted in every tackle store and boating establishment.

Our inshore and bay suffer from fisherman not knowing legal size of keeper's. "Throw back" means fish for the coming generation.

Very truly yours,
Fred G. Stumpf
East Quogue

Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

What Are Your Questions?

Have you ever wondered how a politician who is seeking your approval will vote on an issue once he is in office? All too often, politicians offer us campaigns in which they do not clearly allow the electorate to know what their true feelings are, and what their position is on a particular issue. In effect, the voters are being asked to accept the politician as a free agent or, to put it more plainly, by voting for these ambiguous politicians they are giving them a blank check.

To help make politicians more accountable and to give the voters an opportunity to see what the politicians really think, Suffolk Life has devised a rather lengthy questionnaire covering most major areas of concern. This questionnaire requires answers pertaining to issues and philosophies that can only be answered in a "yes" or "no" format. When a politician votes on issues he must make a "yes" or "no" decision. Therefore, answering these questions in a "yes" or "no" format should not be difficult if they are answered in an honest and forthright manner.

The answers the politicians give are published a few weeks before the general election so as to give the voters an opportunity to examine questions, answer them themselves, then compare their answers to those of the politicians so they may see if the politicians are in tune with those they are seeking votes from.

Our staff has been compiling our questions since last spring. We are now in the final stages of questionnaire preparation. We have developed many questions concerning general philosophy and specific subjects such as crime, insurance, law enforcement, Shoreham, LILCO, health services, taxation, budgeting, transportation and the environment. We welcome questions from our readers that we may add to the questionnaire. We urge readers who have specific questions they would like answered to submit these questions to our editorial board for consideration for the questionnaire.

This year's races are for state and federal seats, for the most part. Those seeking election are state assemblymen, senators, the governor, Congress and the United States Senate. The questions should pertain to state and federal issues, or state and federal influence on our local communities. Please keep your questions short and pertinent. All questions should be returned to our office no later than August 27. The questionnaires will be sent to the candidates within a day or two of Primary Day. They will be published in Suffolk Life October 22.

Thank you for your cooperation, and for having the interest in participating in the pre-election process so that we as Americans can cast our votes intelligently.

And why not?

A Bogus Reason

Citizens of Suffolk County were recently denied an opportunity to participate in the selection of the form of government under which Suffolk County should be governed. A proposal to put before the voters a proposition of abolishing the legislature, which would put county government back in the hands of the supervisors of the county's ten towns, was rejected 9 to 6, with two abstentions. What those nine legislators were saying with their votes

is: "We know better than the voters what is best for them."

This is not the first time county legislators have acted to keep this decision from the ballot, and thus this latest action comes as no surprise. Some of our legislators, however, and most particularly the two who abstained—Legislators Gregory Blass and Tony Bullock—have come up with a new reason to deny the public an opportunity to choose their own form of government: permitting

the public a vote would have an adverse effect on the battle against Shoreham.

Suffolk Life has certainly been in the forefront of the fight against Shoreham. We have said time and again, and firmly believe, that the issue of Shoreham is the most important one that faces our residents. If we felt for one moment that a public vote on the future of the legislature would have a damaging impact on the fight to keep Shoreham closed we might be able to understand the logic put forth. However, we think the public is smart enough to keep things in the proper perspective. We think coupling the legislature's fate with the Shoreham fiasco is a bogus reason to protect legislative positions.

We do not agree that keeping the legislature is the only way that we can win the fight against Shoreham. We think town officials are astute enough to see the handwriting on the wall as far as the public's concerns about Shoreham are involved. While the majority of the legislators have been on the side of the public in this battle, there have been a number of them who have been wishy washy, pro one day and against the next. The firm resolve against the plant on the part of some of our legislators these days is more political than dedication.

One thing is absolutely clear: the public is opposed to Shoreham. And because of this opposition—which has grown tremendously since Chernobyl—more and more politicians have seen the light. They realize that political victories may well depend on a candidate's stance on this issue. For example: the leadership of the Republican party, which has been pro-Shoreham for years, has suddenly turned away from its congressional representative, William Carney, because of his support of the plant. Two years ago they strongly supported his re-election and, in fact, were participants in the big lie—the president's

letter—which helped Carney win that campaign. They put Carney back in office at a time we needed congressional help the most. But now they want us to believe that the GOP is anti-Shoreham, and has even dumped Carney to get that message across. The truth is they felt Carney could not win. Political victory is more important to them than Shoreham.

Another example: One of LILCO's strongest supporters throughout the entire Shoreham battle has been County Comptroller Joseph Caputo. He has strongly supported the opening of the plant, has insisted evacuation is possible and even suggested that we should use boats to evacuate the public in the event of an accident. But guess who has now changed his position? If you guessed Caputo, you're right. Caputo said he now has second thoughts because of Chernobyl. We think he has second thoughts because of the anti-Shoreham political climate. For people like the Republican leaders, and Joe Caputo, victory is more important than the welfare of the people.

Political power is the key, not only for the sudden switches in position, but also for the Democratic opposition to the public referendum on the legislature's future. The Democrats firmly believe that smaller election districts, as opposed to townwide races, give them a better chance for victory. While the Republicans were once opposed to abolishing the legislature, they now see that possibility as offering a good chance at controlling county government through dealing with a smaller number of people—town supervisors of the larger towns.

We think our politicians ought to have the courage to take a position without trying to hide behind bogus issues. We think they should stop trying to hide their selfish motives by hiding behind the Shoreham controversy. Truth is also important.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

"What about it, Newsday???"

Dear Newsday Editors:

Many of the points made in your editorial concerning the public power proposal of the Suffolk County Legislature are valid. However many are highly questionable.

Let me ask that the editors of Newsday consider the dire emergency conditions the S.C. Legislature is working under. These conditions are caused by the impending binding decision of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Noticeably absent from your editorial columns are any opinions concerning yesterday's decision of the N.R.C. which stated that LILCO might be granted a license to operate Shoreham, even though the state of N.Y. and S.C. officials refuse to accept LILCO's substandard and illusionary "Evacuation Plan."

Absent from Newsday's editorials is any comment concerning the very questionable ability of the NRC Chairman, Lando W. Zech and Commissioners Thomas M. Roberts and Frederick M. Bernthal.

Basic to the entire Shoreham/Lilco/People of Suffolk County dilemma, is the federal government's refusal to immediately examine the credentials of these three persons. Three, who have been entrusted with the duty of safeguarding life while judging the safety of proposed nuclear-operations. The NRC Com-

missioners who handed down the affirmative decision yesterday are the bottom-line devils who have perpetuated the agony all Suffolk County residents are experiencing.

Newsday should also question the sympathies of the NRC to the faltering nuclear-energy industry. Purely economic sympathies for Lilco's present pain seem to motivate the NRC in their decisions.

Newsday might also question President Regan's dependency upon the contributions of the Nuclear Industry Magnates to his re-election campaign. Undoubtedly they heavily funded his campaign. Their lobbies are teeming in Washington, D.C. at this very moment, as are Lilco's lobbies.

What about it, Newsday??? Won't one of your investigative reports start the sensational series on the ties between proponents of nuclear power and the White House ruling crew. I'm sure your circulation would soar! Respectfully submitted,
Gloria S. Levin

The writer is coordinator of the Suffolk County Women's Political Caucus. Also, a member of several environmental committees for many years, a resident of Suffolk County for 28 years...always involved as a community activist (unpaid)

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And Then What???

There has been a lot of talk about the possibility or the impossibility of evacuation in the event of an accident at the Shoreham nuclear power plant. There are those...those solidly in the camp of LILCO (their investors, for example) ...who say evacuation is possible.

Others...those endowed with a bit more common sense and knowledge of our roadway systems and our already existing traffic jams...say evacuation is not possible. The argument goes on and on.

Just for a moment, let's put common sense aside and agree with the "evacuation is possible" crowd. Let's say the area could be safely evacuated. The next question is: And then what? How long would we have to stay away from our homes, our jobs? Where would we stay? Who would take care of our needs, such as food, housing, the bare necessities of life? Would the federal government, which is pushing Shoreham down our throats, foot the bills? Is that in writing? Where? Would we get a housing allowance? A food allowance?

And then what? How long would we have to stay away? Would we ever be able to return to gather up our possessions? Or must we simply wipe out our yesterdays as if they didn't exist? Start anew? Where?

Chernobyl has taught us many things. We learned that accidents do, indeed, happen even though the so-called "experts" said they couldn't. We learned that people do, indeed, die as a result of a nuclear accident. Horribly. Their skin charred. Their blood poisoned. That the impact of a radiation plume extends far beyond the confines of the plant. It doesn't suddenly stop at a magic 10-mile limit as our "experts" would have us believe. In fact, we learned that the experts are not so expert when it comes to accidents

and their impact.

We learned something else too, something about the lasting impact on those driven from their homes in a flight to safety. This small note was buried recently on the bottom of an inside page of a pro-Shoreham daily newspaper:

"Construction workers have completed the first of 52 villages being built for evacuees from the Chernobyl security zone, a Soviet newspaper reported. It said people had begun moving into 150 houses in the new village of Ternopolskoye, west of Kiev."

Nothing was said about the cost of the new villages, who is footing the bill, or any of the other pertinent details. Shouldn't those who are pushing for the opening of the plant--the members of the Open Shoreham group who are so interested in their school district tax windfall, the people from Brookhaven National Laboratory who are concerned about the future of the nuclear industry, the money people who hold stocks, or loans to the utility--shouldn't they provide such answers? Shouldn't they be held financially responsible to pay for any impact of their put Shoreham on line efforts?

Another small blurb on an inside page later in the week gave some more insight into the aftermath of Chernobyl:

"Evacuees from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster area are complaining of poor treatment and a reluctance by local officials to inform them about long-term health effects of radiation exposure, according to letters published yesterday in Pravda." Some reports late last week indicated that more than 5,000 cancer deaths can be expected as a result of the Chernobyl disaster.

Are there any assurances that officials in this country would treat Shoreham evacuees any better than it appears they are being treated in Russia? Would our federal officials,

who are so hell-bent on putting the plant on line, be likely to be truthful about the impact of an accident at Shoreham on the public? Have they been about the impact on public health caused by atom bomb tests in the mid-west? In the Pacific? About Agent Orange spraying in Vietnam?

The blurb continues: "In the letters, some evacuees said several families are crammed into homes meant for a single family, and local officials have failed to distribute

clothing and promised living allowances to victims."

Evacuate? Not likely. But even if...and then what? Everyone who insists that Shoreham should go on line owes an obligation to the public to provide the answers to the many problems that could result. And those answers should be forthcoming before any further federal action is taken on the licensing of this potential disaster in our midst.

And why not?

Out In The Cold

The Long Island Power Authority, created in the final days of the state legislature, appears to be Long Island's only hope of accomplishing a takeover of the Long Island Lighting Company now that a county takeover plan has been rejected again in the courts. That state plan, however, is not without its own problems.

Concern has been expressed in recent days that Governor Mario Cuomo, in naming his initial selection for participation in the negotiating process for a possible LILCO takeover, has completely ignored the very people who were responsible for the creation of the LIPA plan and the strategy which brought its success in the legislature. With the exception of Richard Kessel, executive director of the State Consumer Protection Board, not one member of the negotiating committee comes from Long Island. Kessel, while well qualified, is a state official and is therefore bound by whatever restrictions Cuomo might apply. And Kessel is also spread pretty thin with his state-wide consumer duties.

Cuomo was directly involved in watering down the initial LIPA legislation with repeated requests for amendments. The creation of the county's own takeover plan, in fact, was motivated by one major concern, a delay until next January 15 before the LIPA board is created and activated. That delayed start-up date, many feel, could well give the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and LILCO all the time they need to have the plant licensed, a factor that could cause a public takeover to be financially unfeasible.

Just about everyone who has been involved in the quest for public power has questions about the strength of Cuomo's desire to see the LILCO takeover effort succeed. There is speculation that Cuomo may well use the public power plan as a lever in efforts to convince LILCO to kill Shoreham. That scenario supposes Cuomo would agree to permit LILCO to keep the \$1.8 billion the Public Service Commission has already put into the rate base to pay for Shoreham, in return for an agreement to close Shoreham. While the

end to Shoreham would be a major victory for Long Island's future, a continuance of LILCO's management and philosophies could spell big problems for future rates. Cuomo, if this scenario is accurate, would gain respect for his efforts to protect the people of Long Island from a controversial nuclear power plant, while at the same time escape the wrath of the utilities and the money people who oppose public power.

We have nothing but praise for Cuomo's involvement in the Shoreham controversy. He has given his word that he would do everything possible to protect the safety of the people, and he has kept his word. But we do have serious questions about the fact he shunned involving local people in this important effort for Long Island. Why are there no local public officials on his negotiating committee? Why wouldn't he name someone from the Citizens to Replace LILCO group--such as Murray Barbash, or Irving Like--to participate in the initial discussions? Would he rather keep local folks in the dark, letting them know only what he wants them to know, and when he wants them to know it?

It could, of course, be an oversight. Cuomo has had some problems in the past with appointments to various groups. Many of his initial appointments for the Shoreham Commission, for example, turned out to be strongly pro-utility. When complaints came he moved to balance that group by seating a staunch anti-Shoreham individual. If his failure to put local representation on his LIPA committee was not intentional, he can correct that oversight with new appointments now as he did then.

Mario Cuomo has gained a lot of respect here for the way he has worked side by side with the people in the effort to protect the public from Shoreham. We hope he continues to work as our partner in the effort to protect our future from LILCO's arrogance. We strongly urge he name local representatives to his LIPA committee.

And why not?

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