

The D.E.C. at work

Perusing this past week's newspapers gives the interested reader some uncomfortable insights into how the D.E.C. works.

The D.E.C. is an arm of Governor Cuomo's office with a two-fold mission. As an adjunct of the old Conservation Department, it is responsible for the game and fish within the area. Its second function is as a protector of the environment or, as someone once put it, the harasser of human beings enjoying life.

The D.E.C. is responsible for the disposal of sewage, garbage and contaminants. They have enough rules and regulations to choke a horse on the subject. The recent newspaper articles demonstrated how effective they are as an organization.

Stories have appeared daily about beaches having to be closed from Staten Island to Amagansett. The D.E.C.'s response to these polluted waters is that it is too hard to pinpoint the culprit, so, therefore, we will close beaches and inconvenience thousands.

A farmer out in Southampton had converted from potatoes to landscape crops. His farm, located near the ocean, normally received enough moisture from fog and dew to meet the plants' requirements. Many of the plants that make up his crop take three to eight years to bring to maturity. Reading of the rainfall projections for this year, and knowing the minimum amount of water his plants would need to survive, in early spring the farmer applied for a permit for a well. As of the writing of this editorial, the farmer was still going through the bureaucratic maze of the D.E.C. where everybody was saying, "Any day now." In the meantime, his crop is dying of thirst and he may well be forced to abandon this project and sell his land to commercial developers, who will build rows of houses and condominiums. It doesn't sound much like the D.E.C. gives a damn about the water or the land.

When will we wake up?

On a normal basis, we do not allow any polluting of our land, air or water by individuals, companies, or even governmental agencies. There is one exception, the United States Government's Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Lab. The lab is a sacred cow, a subsidiary of a federal agency which operates under a cloak of secrecy.

The lab is located in the middle of Yaphank in what was one of the most rural spots on Long Island. Stuck away in the middle of the woods, it blends with the surroundings and is not highly visible. Its perimeter is fenced and no one is allowed onto the property without special permission and permits.

For years, the lab has appeared to be a good neighbor. Quiet, unobtrusive and an employer of a number

Lyme disease is rampant. It is spread by the deer tick, which is not only common to the deer but also common to field mice. Most of us who live east of the caves of New York City spend a great amount of time outdoors during the warm summer months of July and August, prime tick bite times. Twenty-six states have approved the use of Permethrin, which kills ticks on contact. Permethrin is sprayed on clothing.

The D.E.C. continues to oppose the use of this chemical in New York State even though it is the only known preventative measure to use to avoid tick bites. Many people who spend time outdoors have made a trip to New Jersey or had someone import the repellent. It can't be purchased in New York because the D.E.C. is more concerned about the effects of the chemical, than they are about the effects of deer tick bites to human beings.

Several hundred thousand people own boats on Long Island. About 90 percent of these boats are not moored at docks. They are kept in residents' backyards and trailered to boat ramps where they are launched. Many municipalities have expressed interest in expanding their launching ramps and parking facilities for the cars and trucks. The D.E.C. is just as arrogant and slow to respond to towns and villages as it is to individuals. The result is that many people are put through grief and aggravation to pursue a quality of life they enjoy, while the bureaucrats at the D.E.C. drag through their rules and regulations causing needless waste of time, monies and energies.

We could go on for columns outlining the abuses of people by the D.E.C. This is Governor Mario Cuomo's agency and he is the guy who declared that New York State is a family. No wonder there are so many divorces.

Isn't it time for the governor to correct this situation?
And why not?

of local residents.
Reports have reached this editor and this publication dating back to the late 50's, that everything was not quite as perfect as the lab people would have us believe.

During the late 50's, coon hunters were chased off the property. Security guards told these sportsmen that there were certain areas of the grounds that might be radioactive and, therefore, was dangerous to those who trespassed upon the property. One guard who is known by the sportsmen but who would not allow his name to be used for he feared for his job, told us that the lab had dumped containers of chemicals into the swamps. But that we shouldn't worry for they were sealed canisters. We didn't, then, for we did not know the dangers of radioactive

materials.

A few years later, a pond in Manorville that was a famous fishing hole experienced a massive fish kill. Some of the fish were taken by the Conservation Department for examination. Some were sent to a private college in the state for examination. No official report as to the cause of the kill was ever issued. Unofficially and off the record, the person who had sent the fish to the private college was told that it was suspected that the fish had been killed by radium poisoning. The pond in question is fed by tributaries that run through the Brookhaven National Lab property.

The Peconic River, which has its origin in the vicinity of the Brookhaven National Lab, has been described in national magazines as the most radiation contaminated river in the United States. A few years back, an Air National Guard helicopter flying over the Brookhaven National Lab monitored an indication of heavy radioactive content in the air over the lab.

The Suffolk County Health Services Department, which usually goes after suspected polluters with a passion, has been dilly-dallying over inspecting the lab. The health department has been stonewalled and given the royal runaround by lab officials and officials of the Department of Energy.

Wells to the south of the Brookhaven National Lab have been found to have radioactive contaminants. The plume is moving southward. Just recently, the lab admitted to accidentally releasing a large dosage of radioactive waste into its sewage disposal plant. Lab officials report they are now trying to clean it

up but feel that it will wash into the Peconic and be dissipated.

We know that the Peconic suffers from a severe case of brown tide which has spread to other connecting bays and bodies of water. Algae that is identical to that which causes the brown tide has been found in the waters in the containment areas at Three Mile Island. No one seems to want to make the connection.

The Brookhaven National Lab has been able to operate under a shroud of secrecy because it is an arm of the Department of Energy, and the work being performed there is classified.

As more evidence appears on a daily basis that the lab may be a severe danger to the health and welfare of Suffolk County residents, it is time to unveil the lab for what it may well be, the biggest polluter on Long Island. If the federal government and the Brookhaven National Lab have their house in order, they should have nothing to fear of a complete, thorough investigation of the facility, its records of environmental waste handling, nuclear waste handling and the experiment of radioactive applications on land, air and water that have been conducted at the lab.

The Department of Energy is the federal organization that has been pushing for the opening of the Shoreham nuclear power plant, contending that it is safe and that people have nothing to fear.

The federal government should invite the state and county health departments into the lab to do a complete and thorough analysis. The findings may have a tremendous impact, but as people we have a right to know what is happening to us.

And why not?

Volunteer spirit still alive

A shortage of volunteers in numerous volunteer ambulance companies and fire departments has given rise to fears that the volunteer spirit is on its way out. That people don't care anymore. The spirit of togetherness, and one for all and all for one, exists no more. But the response to a Suffolk Life editorial last week which launched a drive to recruit volunteers throughout Suffolk County has given us cause for hope.

There are people who care. Who are willing to give of their time to assist others in times of need. To serve as volunteers in ambulance companies, fire departments, and rescue squads. To respond to a call for help.

The responses came from men and women, from husbands and wives. "Yes," they said, "We're interested in volunteering." They came from communities spread throughout the county. From people who still care.

But more are needed. We need you. There's no pay. But there's lots of gratitude. The look in the eyes of

a sick or injured person being assisted by a volunteer is worth more than money. The satisfaction of knowing that you were there when someone was in desperate need kindles a warmth in your heart. And though the praise from a grateful community does not come often enough, the appreciation and respect of a grateful public does, indeed, exist.

You will find a form on page 6 of this edition that we ask you to fill out and mail to Suffolk Life, c/o Volunteers, P.O. Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901. We will forward the form to the appropriate organizations in your community who are in need of volunteers.

To those who have already responded, we thank you and applaud you. You have shown us that the volunteer spirit is still alive, that the caring spirit still exists. We urge all those who have some time to spare to join in this effort to make our communities a better and safer place to live.
And why not?

Governor, please read the deal

Last week, Governor Mario Cuomo appeared on a local cable television program to defend and to sell the Cuomo-Catacosinos solution to Shoreham. Interested observers were left with one of two conclusions. Governor Cuomo has not read the deal, didn't give thought to the ramifications, or he is deliberately and dishonestly taking part in the fraud of the century.

We prefer to believe the first scenario. We do not want to believe that the governor is dishonest. We have had the utmost respect for this man. We believe he is bright to the point of being brilliant, a thoughtful and skillful interrogator and a seeker of truth. Although we do not know Cuomo that well personally, we do know him professionally and know a number of others we trust who claim to know him intimately. They tell us that Cuomo accepts nothing as the truth from most of his staff and his advisors. He questions at length until he has received what he perceives is a satisfactory explanation. We were told there are a few exceptions, his son, Andrew, and Vincent Tese.

Cuomo appointed Tese as his negotiator in the Cuomo-Catacosinos-Shoreham deal. Tese is also a member of the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) board. It has become all too apparent in the weeks since the deal was announced, that Cuomo has relied upon a small group of advisors for all his information rather than seeking out the truth himself. The television show painfully bore this out.

When Cuomo announced the deal, he announced that LILCO would pay for the decommissioning. It turned out that wasn't true at all, that the ratepayers would have to foot the bill.

In his recent television appearance Cuomo made a number of comments that are simply not true. Either he doesn't know the facts, or he wasn't telling the truth. Here are some examples:

Cuomo stated that according to the deal, LILCO stockholders would not resume receiving dividends until 1992. If Cuomo had read the deal, he would have known that provisions provide for stockholders to resume receiving dividends in 1989.

Cuomo said that the Public Service Commission has control over the New York Power Authority rates. According to everyone else, this is not true. The PSC has no say; the NYPA board members have absolute control over their own rates.

Governor Cuomo stated that LIPA was his bill. This is an outright lie. The concept of a LIPA bill was developed in the community room of Suffolk Life Newspapers. It was As-

semblymen Paul Harenberg and Ken LaValle's bill. It did not originate through the governor's office. In fact, he did everything in his power to bastardize the bill. The original bill called for an open election of a peoples' board. He insisted the elections be pushed off far into the future, giving the governor an appointed board with the governor having the sole discretion to appoint the chairman. And the way he has manipulated the board's action with his people, we now know why. After LIPA was created by the legislature, he waited six months to convene a board, the very last moment he could have.

Cuomo said that LILCO stockholders will absorb \$2.2 billion. He's wrong. We assume he's talking about the imprudency disallowance imposed by the PSC. The real figure is \$1.4 billion. Cuomo claims responsibility for the imprudency hearing which led to the imprudency penalties. That's not true either. The prudency investigation was originally sponsored by the legislature and approved by Governor Carey. The investigators found an additional \$700 million which is still in question and under the Cuomo-Catacosinos deal could vanish into thin air, leaving the ratepayers to pick up these costs that they wouldn't necessarily have to.

Cuomo stated that he invited the legislature and community leaders to aid him in negotiating. That's simply not true. He told us that we would have an opportunity to enter input into the negotiations after the deal was announced. But when he announced the deal, he added the proviso, "take it or leave it. I can't renegotiate anything." And when criticism was raised, his henchmen accused those who dared to disagree of "deal bashing."

Cuomo reiterated his statement that this deal will close Shoreham absolutely. If Cuomo would read the deal in its entirety he would find out that there is no guarantee that even if the ratepayers subject themselves to what will probably turn out to be up to \$10 billion in indebtedness, there is nothing in the bill that absolutely guarantees that Shoreham will be dismantled. The agreement does not preclude mothballing or safe storing Shoreham. In fact, careful reading of it might indicate that this is what is planned by those behind the scenes.

The governor went on to say that if LILCO does not get this deal, they will ask for a ten percent rate hike. LILCO can ask for whatever they want. The rates have to be approved by the Public Service Commission. The PSC, by law, can only accept those costs prudently incurred and

has equal discretion to protect the ratepayers and the utility. The PSC is already on record as telling LILCO it will not consider any further payments for Shoreham unless a reasonable solution is found. If Cuomo has been prudent and skillful in picking his PSC members, they will act on behalf of the people and follow the wishes of the governor.

The governor stated that anyone -- public leader, or elected official -- who does not support the deal is opening Shoreham. The fight to close Shoreham has been going on for almost a decade and a-half. It appears what we have worked so hard and diligently for, the governor has

virtually undone through his negotiated settlement. It's blatantly apparent that this man does not understand, has not read the deal, and has refused to listen to reason. We doubt it is out of stupidity. We don't want to believe it is out of dishonesty. We hate to think it is out of ignorance. Could it be it is just out of arrogance?

Governor Cuomo, we pray you find the will and the time to read the agreement you are proposing and think about the ramifications. If you do, you should be back on our side where you belong. Fighting with us to protect our futures from a nuclear AND a financial disaster.

And why not?

United we stand

Something happened last week that has only happened on a few occasions in the past 40 years. Most members of the New York State Suffolk delegation to the legislature, and one from Nassau, sat down at one table, took off their respective political hats, put aside "what's in it for me" and united as representatives of Suffolk residents.

This meeting, hosted by the publisher of this paper, was called to discuss the ramifications of the Cuomo-Catacosinos-Shoreham deal. It was the hope of not only this publisher, but all members of the delegation, that an idea would surface that would put sanity into this insane scenario. It did.

The delegation left the room united in its belief that:

One: The deal would not absolutely close Shoreham, there were too many loopholes. The probable scenario would be that Shoreham would be mothballed, or safe stored, to operate another day.

Two: The ratepayers were being asked to accept irreparable financial harm through rates that are neither fair or realistic, or reflect the imprudent management of the Shoreham project.

Three: There are too many unanswered questions concerning the cost and responsibility of decommissioning. Still uncertain are federal consents for tax breaks and other factors that could propel the rates many times higher than those being offered by the governor's men.

United, the delegation decided, in their collective wisdom, to push for a course of action that would require LILCO to stop pursuing any attempt for a license while time is given for the ramifications of the deal and its

details to be worked out.

The delegation took this action knowing full well that the governor's reaction would be, "We either go for the deal now or LILCO will refuse to negotiate any further and Shoreham may get a federal license." No one believes it. They felt that the laws and the courts were on our side. That if LILCO was faced with the deal collapsing, knowing that their stock will follow, and that the corporation could well be forced into pre-Chapter Eleven or Chapter Thirteen bankruptcy, they would negotiate an honest and fair deal with the ratepayers.

We applaud the legislators for stripping themselves of their party affiliations and having the courage to act as true representatives of the residents. We especially applaud the Democratic legislators--Assemblymen Paul Harenberg, Bill Bianchi, Bob Sweeney, and Lou Yevoli from Nassau, who have stood firm against the pressures of the governor and his office and refused to be pushed into accepting a deal they firmly believe is bad for the public.

The governor has vowed to come into their districts and campaign against them. His henchmen have launched a literature drive against them, with lies and scare headlines declaring they have opened Shoreham and support huge rate increases. But these four, and the other members of the Suffolk delegation, except for Assemblyman Robert Wertz who has voiced support for the deal, are not being bullied by the governor's tactics. The deal benefits LILCO, and they're fighting for the people.

And why not?

Is There Another Way

In a conversation with Governor Cuomo two weeks ago, he used a favorite tactic of his. He threw the gauntlet to me to find a better way to close Shoreham. In doing so, however, he tied my hands by saying, "The deal I have cut with LILCO is not negotiable. I cannot change anything."

I have thought long and hard about this issue, and it appears that the governor has deliberately shut all other doors. It's not that he had to, it's that he chose to. This is what disturbs me deeply. If the governor was truly serious and desirous of closing Shoreham, he would not have precluded any alternatives but his own. There are other ways, and there have been alternate ways to close Shoreham that Governor Cuomo has not allowed to come to fulfillment.

Back in 1983, during the Cuomo Commission hearings, the former chairman of LILCO all but pleaded with the state to buy them out. Cuomo did not act. In 1986, L.I.P.A. was conceived as a viable alternative for the public to take over the Long Island Lighting Company and close Shoreham. The concept was enacted into law, signed by the governor, and the public was led to believe it had his full support. The mechanism for the takeover was to be a friendly negotiated settlement. Barring this, through a stock tender, and if this failed, a condemnation of the assets of the corporation.

L.I.P.A. made a series of offers and, if the governor had allowed the plan to be carried to fulfillment, a takeover would have resulted, probably at somewhere between \$12 and \$14 per share which would have allowed L.I.P.A. to produce and market electricity at a cost savings to the ratepayers.

At the eleventh hour, the governor opted for a deal made between his top advisor, Vincent Tese, and the chairman of LILCO, William Catacosinos. The governor, at this point, painted himself into a corner. The public and the other elected officials had no input into the deal, and the governor, in his announcement, stated emphatically that the terms of the deal were cut in stone. That nothing could be changed. To use his terms, "Take it or leave it. If you don't take it, you are responsible for opening Shoreham."

The deal, as we have said, stinks. It pays LILCO for building the plant, for operating it as if it was a viable entity, and includes the profit that normally would have accrued to a utility if they had made a legitimate

investment in an operating facility. The deal calls for not only paying LILCO for these factors, but for the ratepayers to pay the full cost of decommissioning. And then it returns to LILCO any monies that result from salvage value of the systems of the plant. When the plant is finally decommissioned and the land is decontaminated, LILCO gets to buy it back for one dollar.

The deal, as it is structured, does not guarantee that the plant will be dismantled. In fact, it does not even guarantee that L.I.P.A. will be the owner of the plant. The deal specifically says L.I.P.A. "or another agency." The other agency could be N.Y.P.A., which already operates nuclear power plants. Some of its board members are staunch advocates of nuclear power. The governor answers this by saying, "I will have new laws passed forbidding the operation of a nuclear power plant on Long Island." We say if you have the desire and the power to do it, and you believe the law will not be overturned in the courts, then why haven't you done it in the past?

Is there a way to close Shoreham besides the governor's deal? We think there is, but it's going to require the governor to give. He is going to have to say, I tried my darndest to get the deal through, but they weren't buying it on Long Island. Let's go back to L.I.P.A. and give them the respect and the credence they deserve. Let them pursue a friendly takeover or, heaven forbid, a condemnation of the assets of LILCO. Let us put the full strength of the State of New York into our court fight to beat the federal government and the current administration, which is so pro-nuclear. As a Democrat and a national figure, let Cuomo do what he can to elect his standard bearer, Michael Dukakis, who has already pledged that he will, if victorious, close Shoreham, as well as Seabrook.

Internally within the state, let the governor have the fortitude to re-vamp and return the mission of the Public Service Commission (P.S.C.) to protecting the ratepayers as well as ensuring the health of the utility. He would do well to order the chairman of the P.S.C. to clean house of P.S.C.'s entrenched bureaucrats who have served the utilities so well.

Yes governor, there is a better way. You have it within your power to do it. May God give you the wisdom and the courage to be the representative that he has chosen you to be.

And why not?

boating has repeatedly come under attack both by Newsday and by the various branches of government. Obviously, the editorial writers of Newsday and the Suffolk County Legislature are not very familiar with the marine environment.

In Suffolk County there are several hundred thousand registered boaters. For each boat there is generally more than one family affected, as friends who have boats

take out friends who don't. People look at boats as the ultimate luxury, the property of fat cats. In reality, boats are owned mostly by regular people with regular incomes. They are a thing of pride. A source of enjoyment and recreation. Most people who own and operate boats do so carefully and with common sense.

The first reaction of most boat owners is fear and respect. As experience is acquired, confidence takes hold and people use their boats cautiously and sensibly. Sure there are some who disregard common sense and common courtesy. These are the same people that are a pain whether they are on land, sea or air. You can regulate things, but you never can completely control them.

Speed limits were placed on boats. Of course it is almost impossible to enforce speed limits on the water. There are no traffic patterns except for channels, and police do not regularly patrol the waterways.

The legislature's last move would be funny if it was not so ludicrous. For years, environmentalists have been proposing the elimination of any dumping. But they have failed to address onelittle detail. There are no pumping stations to take care of discharge. The county legislature, in its high and holy ways and in its speed in enacting legislation, has failed for the last ten years to provide pumping stations at county marinas and facilities. These whiz kids have not provided the funds for the equipment or the manpower.

Those who have holding tanks eventually find them filled to the brim, with no way of off-loading them. Excuse the pun, but it is a

stinking mess. Before the legislature is so quick to try and interject itself, it should survey the marinas to find out what is the actual usage of heads and how much effluent is really discharged. Even on busy weekends, a marina containing 300 boats is lucky to have action on 50 of these boats. Tops would be 100.

Most people who have been on a boat before do everything that mother nature will allow to relieve themselves before going aboard. Where conditions allow, you wait until you get ashore. The last resort is utilizing the head. Most boats are not lived on. They are utilized for just a few short hours. Most boats that do have heads have Coast Guard approved systems that process the waste and chemically treat it so that the bacteria is killed. Boats have systems that, in some ways, parallel the systems used in sewage plants. As we all know, sewage plants treat the waste and then dump it back into the same waters we are trying to protect.

As we see it, our legislators are attempting to nickle and dime away the freedom to use a boat. If they are successful in doing so, our waterways will go the way the vast holdings of parklands have. Although owned by the people, because of such restrictive regulations the people cannot fully enjoy that which has supposedly been set aside for recreational purposes. There will be the same signs that are on the trees in our parks: "No Trespassing."

Boaters and friends of boaters, is this what you want? If not, it's time to be heard.

And why not?

PBA's Are Not Volunteers

This is the season that most volunteer organizations run fundraising drives. The local fire departments, ambulance corps and other community-spirited organizations seek the support of the community to fund the fellowship and service aspects of their respective organizations.

The volunteers who are the members of these organizations spend numerous hours in vigorous training to prepare themselves for calls that may come at any hour of the day or night. These organizations, and the volunteers who man them, deserve every bit of help and financial support we can give them.

In this week's mail came a letter from the local P.B.A. seeking support and donations from the community. The unsuspecting public might think that the P.B.A. is a volunteer organization made up of people giving of their time, and serving their fellowman.

Let's set the record straight. The P.B.A. is the Policemen's Benevolent Association. Its primary purpose is to look out for the cops. It's their union organization, pure and simple, although many PBAs do have an arm that does some community action work, sponsors teams, and they have been known to aid the needy at Christmas time.

PBA members are members of the police force. This is their job and they are well paid for it. In fact, most

cops, on an hourly basis with benefits included, make between forty and fifty dollars per hour. They enjoy twenty year retirements and have pensions that amount to fifty percent or better of their highest earnings during their career. They receive a whole host of benefits that average working people do not receive, but must pay for through their taxes to support the police benefits.

The fundraising letter appeared to put the PBA in the same light as our volunteer fire department and ambulance corps. On one hand, the PBA is saying, we provide a community service just like the volunteers. But what they fail to say is that they are paid very well for this effort and they do not do it out of the graciousness of their hearts.

We can't help but wonder how many people are suckered into such an appeal, giving dollars that should go to truly deserving volunteer organizations and, instead, are being donated to one of the most highly paid organizations in the community.

Cops deserve our thanks and appreciation when they do their job, nothing more. We believe that fundraising drives by police organizations border on being a sham and are an insult to both the men and the uniform they wear.

And why not?

Voters Unite

If you read a recent Sunday issue of Newsday you would have found that the newspaper has decided that boaters are the cause of all the problems with our environment and, therefore, should be regulated into oblivion.

Not wishing to miss an opportunity to jump into the headlines, the Suffolk County Legislature declared Suffolk waters a "no dumping" area on Tuesday. During this past year,

Racing the clock to pass bad deal

Governor Mario Cuomo, for some reason as yet unexplained, is racing the clock to force acceptance of the Cuomo-Catacosinos Shoreham deal. The governor is bound and determined to meet a September 22 deadline included in the contractual settlement which calls for approval by the state Public Service Commission by that date. If the governor is successful in his effort, he will be giving new credence to the old adage, "Haste makes waste."

Unfortunately, however, the waste will come out of the pockets of the public. The governor's bewildering determination to force this deal down the throats of the public—"If you don't take my deal you will be responsible for opening Shoreham," he insists—forecloses any opportunity to take the full financial load of Shoreham off the shoulders of the ratepayers and put it on the back of LILCO, where it belongs. The governor will give, if his deal goes through, LILCO full return of their investment in Shoreham except for those costs imprudently spent, which LILCO is not entitled to anyway, PLUS a profit on the plant.

He has promised LILCO a bare minimum of a 63 percent in rates, with the very real likelihood the increase will be a lot higher. LILCO gets reimbursement credit for plant parts that are sold if the plant is ever dismantled, gets to buy the land back for \$1 at the end of the decommissioning process, receives all kinds of tax breaks, \$500 million in low interest IDA loans. The ratepayers must pay, under the terms of Cuomo's deal, for all decommissioning costs, despite the fact LILCO arrogantly put the plant into low power status over everyone's objections. Cuomo's deal would also forgive LILCO against any further claims of imprudent expenditures of funds in the Shoreham fiasco, and has also attempted to get Suffolk County to drop its RICO suit against LILCO. The RICO suit is

expected to go to trial in early September. Information that could be revealed as a result of that suit could well enhance hopes for additional imprudency penalties against LILCO, which would lower the financial impact on the ratepayer. But the governor wants to give that hope away.

There have been several requests that the governor extend his self-imposed deadline for several very valid reasons. The most important is the handing down of a Boston federal court decision in a court action by Suffolk, New York State and Massachusetts which challenges the right of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to change the rules on evacuation. The NRC's rule change permits the assumption that governments will respond in the event of an emergency, eliminating the one major factor that stands in the way of a license for Shoreham. If the that decision—expected sometime in September—is favorable on behalf of the states and Suffolk, LILCO's license hopes will be dealt a severe, perhaps fatal, blow. If the governor's deal is approved before that decision comes down, LILCO will win, no matter what the court rules.

The county's RICO suit exposes LILCO to an \$8.7 billion financial impact. If the county wins that suit, LILCO would be in a drastic financial dilemma. But if the deal goes through before that decision, and LILCO is guaranteed investment grade status, it would be the ratepayers who would be the big losers.

Cuomo's deal gives LILCO an option for delay, yet he refuses to entertain any suggestion that he agree to an extension beyond his September 22 deadline. Why? Cuomo has berated state legislators who call for a delay, insisting they are trying to stall beyond the November elections, that they don't have the courage to make a decision. Congressman George Hochbrueckner

sent Cuomo a letter last week asking for a 30-day delay beyond September 22. Hochbrueckner reports the governor was very upset by that request, and berated the congressman in a very angry and heated phone conversation.

Why?

Richard Kessel, the governor's chief salesman for the deal, has told Suffolk Life that LILCO set the September 22 deadline. We can understand why LILCO wants the deal in place before the Boston decision comes down and the RICO suit gets too far along. But why is Cuomo caving in to that pressure? LILCO got everything else they could want, why can't the people have the benefit of those 30 days to hear what the federal court decision is, and to let the RICO suit proceed?

Cuomo will insist if the deal is not cut by September 22, Shoreham will open. He's gambling that the fear of a Shoreham disaster will cause the public to accept any deal, any financial impact, to close the plant. He will say you are gambling with the future if you don't do as he says.

Well, it's your future, too. Do you want to pay a bare minimum of 63 percent more in electric rates over the next ten years? Not only for your own home, but for the county, your town, your school district, prices for the goods you buy? Do you want LILCO to walk away with their Golden Parachutes and the Cuomo pot of gold, while you pay the price? Or are you willing to wait for the decisions which could, if unfavorable to LILCO, take away the threat of Shoreham and bring about negotiations which would transfer some of the load from the ratepayers to LILCO.

Do you want to close Shoreham at any price, now, without further delay? Do you believe the governor and his people, who insist this is the cheapest way, the only way, to end the Shoreham controversy?

Should the governor agree to re-

open negotiations with LILCO to come up with a better deal, one that gives the ratepayers a fair shake?

Can't? Won't? — What do you say?

As a boy, I well remember a situation that took place in the classroom. I asked permission to go to the boys' room by saying, "Can I go?" The teacher, a stern advocate of proper speech, answered me by saying, "Yes you can, but you may not."

This parallel reminds me of Governor Cuomo in his statement that he can't negotiate the Shoreham deal. He can, but he won't. That's tragic. Nothing is cut in stone, it's just a state of mind. If the governor wants to, he can pick up the phone and tell Bill Catacosinos, "The people on Long Island are not buying the package we put together. We have got to re-negotiate this thing. You got too much, you want the people to pay more than what is fair." If the governor won't, out of arrogance, then that's sad, because we have put our faith in him and his executive abilities.

We have heard from the inner sanctum in Albany that the governor believes that his deal has been well received by Long Islanders. That the average person is delighted that Shoreham will be closed and is enthusiastic about paying the cost. We agree that most sane people want the plant closed. We disagree very strongly that many people think the governor has done a good or a credible job in negotiating the closure. In fact, almost everyone on Long Island thinks the deal stinks and that the governor has let them down.

Maybe Cuomo needs to know from you how you feel. To make it easy, we have printed a ballot which you can send off to him, indicating your support or your disgust with this settlement. Why not let him know how you feel? He obviously has been getting bad advice, for he thinks you love him. Send off this ballot now. The sooner he knows, the better.

And why not?