

Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

An Open Letter

Supervisor-elect Thomas Jernick,
Shelter Island
Supervisor-elect John Leonard,
Riverhead
Supervisor-elect Theodore Hulse,
Southampton
Supervisor Albert Martocchia,
Southold
Supervisor Eugene Lester,
East Hampton

Gentlemen:

Last October, here in our offices at Suffolk Life, each of you pledged, if elected, that you would immediately call for an organizational meeting of the other Supervisors. The purpose of the meeting would be to create an organization comprised of the Supervisors, Chairmen of the Planning Boards and others to provide communication between the five eastern towns.

It is now December, approximately 30 days have elapsed since your successful elections. We know of no action on your parts to carry out this pledge. There is no logical reason to put this important matter off. Since this organization, at least in the beginning, will have no legal powers, there is no reason to wait until you are inaugurated.

It is imperative that you join forces immediately. Right now there are two matters that affect all five east end towns. What will be done with the Westhampton Airport and the closing and attitude of the county government with relation to the Shinnecock Bridge.

Your immediate action on these matters will be appreciated by all residents of the east end.

Respectfully,
David J. Willmott
Editor and Publisher

Warning! Don't Ride The L.I.R.R.

Last week we walked into a local stationery store and saw a sign exhorting our women-folk to take the L. I. Railroad into the city to do their Christmas shopping. The sign was printed in all of the joyful colors of Christmas, but we couldn't help wondering if the trips to New York would end up as happily as the sign promised.

A few weeks ago, a couple of gals from Riverhead decided to get away from it all one day and headed for the

city. After arriving (a half hour late) they settled down to an enjoyable day of lunch and a matinee. They got back to Penn Station in plenty of time to catch the homeward-bound train. As usual, it was ten minutes late departing. It kept to this ten minute delay until it arrived in Huntington. Here, the bus that completes the second leg of the journey had left five minutes before. These fare-paying passengers were literally abandoned in the deserted and devastated (by urban renewal) Huntington train station. Luckily, a taxi came along willing to complete the journey to Riverhead at a cost of \$36. These gals, plus two others who found themselves in the same predicament, split the fare.

It is bad enough that the MTA subjects its passengers to frightfully unsafe equipment, the discomforts of dirt, no heat and stuck windows. Couple these outrageous indignities with obvious arrogance, and you have an intolerable situation. We have found out that such an occurrence is not unusual. We wonder who the idiot is in the MTA who made up the rule that the bus must go on its merry journey if the train is late. Fare-paying passengers stranded on a deserted station platform miles from home. We don't wonder that passengers become rebellious. The MTA is fond of prosecuting rebellious passengers who refuse to present their tickets. Turnabout is fair play.

We suppose that there is little the ladies can do to get back their money or to be reimbursed for the taxi fare, but we feel that it is our obligation to warn you about the latest in "service" from the L.I.R.R. We encourage all east end residents to avoid this abomination like the plague. If you have to go to the city, take a car. The world's longest parking lot is a lot quicker and more reliable. And why not?

Price Freeze, Phase Two

In conversations with workers, business people, government employees and people on the street, we have found widespread support for President Nixon's wage and price freeze, even where it meant giving up expected increases in salary and projected price increases. For the most part the people seem to have bought the concept, even though it

meant personal hardship.

Now that we have entered into Phase 2, we find this support weakening. The guy on the street sees government employees getting their 15 percent pay hike, but he can't get his. Daily headlines tell us that the unions are fighting tooth and nail for their share. We see that the coal miners have won the battle for a 15 percent wage increase. We see big business asking for price increases beyond the 2.2 percent allowed under the guidelines, and we know that it is only a matter of time before these increases will result in higher prices to the consumer. None of this is good.

The average guy is willing to put up with the discomfort caused by the freeze because he knows he can't get ahead of inflation on his own. When he gets a raise in pay, it is only eaten up by the higher cost of goods and services. He supports a freeze as long as it pertains to everyone else the same as it does to him. When he sees exemptions being made for everyone else, he wants his too. This is only natural and right.

If Nixon wants to stop inflation, he must be firm and put an end to this. Unbending rules must be made and no exemptions permitted. These rules must apply not only to labor and business, but also must be binding upon government workers, taxes and revenues alike.

Here in New York State, we face an increase in the sales tax on the county level, and the governor threatens to raise the income tax, corporate taxes and nuisance taxes. If we are expected to bear the burden of these taxes, then everyone, business and labor alike, must be able to make more money which is forbidden under the freeze.

We go along with the guy on the street. Let's have it one way or the other. We don't want and will not be caught in the middle. It's Nixon's move. And why not?



SUFFOLK LIFE

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N.Y. 288-3900
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 - or Box 167 Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of
62,000 WEEKLY

Published every Wednesday in five market area editions
Northern Brookhaven...17,716 South Fork...12,204
Southern Brookhaven...13,365 North Fork...8,883
Riverhead/Westhampton...16,212

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher
Sherman B. Chace - Advertising Manager
John McKay - Production Manager
Tim Stalker - News Editor

Subscription Rate:
In Suffolk County \$1.00 per year
Outside Suffolk County \$5.00 per year
News stand single copy sales 10¢ per issue

Controlled Circulation - Postage paid at Riverhead N.Y. 11901