

Live where you work

In an attempt to stem the tide of the flow of the more affluent citizens to the suburbs, New York City is seriously considering implementing a residency requirement for all police, fire, educational and municipal workers, that are hired in the future.

As government workers' income accelerated rapidly in the past decade, these workers now earn income that places them in the top 10 per cent of the nation.

They have used these new found resources to flee cities. They have moved to the suburbs, including Suffolk. They commute back and forth to their jobs and twice a month bring their paycheck home to be spent in the area that they live.

In effect, they are biting the hand that feeds them. The same condition exists in Suffolk County. Numerous public employees who work in less affluent towns settle in other towns, thus adding to the problems of their communities. These problems are not only economic.

When public employees, who are paid by municipalities live in a community other than the one that they are employed in, they lose a

sense of feeling and identity with that community.

They are not able to comprehend or understand the problems of the people they are being paid by to serve, and in effect, they become less valuable to their employer.

Since government jobs, today, are the most lucrative that can be obtained, it is reasonable for the municipalities paying these high salaries to expect and demand that their employees live within the community.

It would be unfair to expect those already employed to uproot their families, sell their homes and relocate to where their job is. But it isn't unreasonable to make permanent residency a requirement for holding a job with the government in the future.

Suffolk Life feels New York City is right and hopes that Suffolk, particularly the towns and school districts, will follow suit in making residency within the community a requirement for future employment.

And why not?

Politics of austerity

When the voters turn down a school budget and the district is compelled to go on austerity, you would think everyone concerned would attempt to pull together to make the best of a bad thing.

After all, this is the American way. We have watched the games people play and it isn't a very encouraging scene. Austerity, in itself, is a farce. The primary items knocked out are the extras people get uptight about. Austerity eliminates sports and busing outside the maximum state limits. It also is supposed to keep students and community residents from using its facilities after school hours.

A school board, however, has tremendous leeway in interpreting what is austerity and what is not.

If a school board and the administration want to be hard-nosed and teach the voters a lesson, they can act like spoiled children. Unfortunately, some districts do. The districts can rent out facilities for the cost of keeping them opened. Some districts make this policy known, others make the various groups and organizations who wish to use these facilities crawl on their knees and beg for the right to rent them.

About the stupidest thing we have heard of occurred in the Riverhead School District.

The Riverhead High School Ski Club was forced to drop Riverhead High School from the name of their club. The ski club does not receive any

financial aid from the district. It was a self-supporting program from the first, whose costs are paid for by those who participate.

This year, the ski club is known as the Austere Ski Club because the board refused the club the right to use the high school's name. How childish can you get?

One of the worst aspects of an austerity budget is the school board gets so caught up in playing stupid little games, they refuse to take seriously the mandate taxpayers have given them.

What the taxpayers are saying is the cost of running the school is too high. They are telling the school board to eliminate the high cost of administration by reducing the ratio of chiefs to workers. They also want to cut back on the frill courses being offered the students. They are nice and help round out the education of a student, but are saying, "we can't afford them." The voters are saying the school board should develop more productively from the investment made.

Instead of trying to teach the taxpayers a lesson, school boards should accept the rejection of the budget as a challenge to develop a more acceptable educational system within the bounds that a taxpayer can afford.

Failure to do this only guarantees subsequent budget defeats, voter-taxpayer resentment and an inferior educational system. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'To the next unsuspecting landlord'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Since my employer is now faced with problems created by "Welfare Dumping", your article in the November 9th Rocky Point edition caught my attention.

It appears that in addition to not maintaining the premises, nor notifying us of their moving, we now find that our refrigerator is missing from the house.

Since Social Service has denied all responsibilities for their clients, I have written the enclosed letter in the hope that I can help to prevent someone else from unnecessarily being faced with the same as we are.

If my letter is published, I would like my name withheld and the letter signed

Unsuspecting Landlord

Open Letter

their last landlord, and like you, felt sorry for them and for all the bad luck that seemed to befall them. We still felt sorry for them when we noticed the lawn had turned to weed from not cutting, and their car was no longer parked in the driveway, but now being driven and parked on the rear lawn closer to the back door. We even made excuses to ourselves when they bought pigeons and put up a coop (everyone we said is entitled to have a pet).

But suddenly our eyes were opened when we noticed refuse accumulating in the rear of the back yard. We realize now that it wasn't bad luck, hard times or the rise in unemployment that created their problem but LAZINESS which I feel should not be one of the conditions for receiving Social Service.

So unsuspecting landlord, open your eyes and look before the next unsuspecting landlord letter is signed by you...L-3X
An Unsuspecting Landlord

'The Canal, like ourselves, is a veteran'

Dear Editor:

The Panama Canal is really not a Panama Canal, rather a U.S. Canal at the isthmus of Panama. Many of our people make this mistake and have gotten to believe we are really not giving something really American away.

We are being brainwashed by the Carter administration to turn over a 14 billion dollar item to a banana republic that has had 51 governments since 1903. The reasoning is that if the American people can be assured this country's ships - naval and-or commercial will have unimpeded use of the canal, no one will really care who owns it.

Sen. Robert Dole found out that Panama contends the treaty does give the U.S. the right to intervene to assure U.S. vessels free access. Americans say yes, but there is no agreement. We must maintain our ownership to have unhampered use of our canal.

The canal like ourselves is a veteran, one who has served our nation well and will continue to do so. But we must work hard to convince our senators that giving it away and even paying Panama to take it, is the first step in weakening our defenses. Write your senators and protest L-5X
James A. Bush
Cmdr. No. 395 VFW

'I don't really think it is worth \$2.09 a month'

Dear Editor:

I would like to correct your recent article attacking the phone company. You incorrectly quoted the monthly charge for a standard black telephone, the phone now costs \$2.05 per month as opposed to \$2.50 per month.

I hope the public realizes exactly what they are getting themselves into with the new ruling on phone ownership. Sure, Ma Belle is trying to hold onto the wiring in the houses. It is their wire and they have maintained it. If Ma Belle loses the wiring in the houses, who's going to repair, move and replace these wires should they go bad? Most people take Ma Belle's maintenance for granted. Everybody knows how much it costs to have the TV, electric and appliances repaired! It's going to be likewise for phones and wires.

The cost of rental on one phone is \$2.05 per month, about \$24.60 per year. A private repairman will probably charge \$25.00 per visit for repair and replacement of phones and wires. Being a repairman for New York Telephone, I have seen how some people destroy their phones. These people are going to pay heavily for their private repairs. Right now the phone company will do everything it can to clear a customer's trouble, from replacing a phone to replacing all the phones

and the wires! No extra cost.

As a repairman for Ma Belle and a Suffolk resident, this new ruling makes my job and many other Telco jobs a lot less secure. If there are layoffs in Telco, the other residents will pay the bill for food stamps, unemployment and welfare. The loss of our buying dollars will hurt everybody. I don't think it is really worth \$2.05 per month. L-10Y
Kenneth J. Stafford
Medford

'Again, our thanks'

To the Editor:

The Riverhead Country Fair Committee wishes to thank you and your staff for the many ways in which Suffolk Life helped publicize and support the 1977 Riverhead Country Fair. The Fair supplement, in particular, was undoubtedly an important factor in the success of the Fair. Our estimated attendance was over 30,000 with estimated profits of about \$6,000, in spite of the rain!

Again, our thanks for your support! L-9Y
The Riverhead Country Fair Committee
Jean E. Flanigan
Publicity Contact

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Riverhead
Hampton West

Mastic/Moriches
Patchogue
Medford/Holbrook
Sayville
Ronkonkoma

Coram/Middle Island
Selden/Centereach
3 Villages of Port Jefferson
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Willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

'It is time to cut out waste'

Only the first step

Three Suffolk towns last week dropped out of the county's consortium to get federal community development funds. We hope it's the beginning of a trend, not just in this program but in all dealings the towns have with Suffolk County.

Over the past half dozen years, since the county legislature was born, the bureaucracy in county government has grown like Topsey, almost doubling from 7,000 employees in 1970 to nearly 13,000 now.

With all that manpower around, the county has started more departments and gotten into more areas than is good for them, or more importantly, for us, the taxpayer.

It's about time the towns stood up on their hind legs and stopped the slow encroachment of county government.

Not only will Huntington, Babylon and Islip get millions of dollars more, but they will deal directly with the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development on what they can and can't do with their money.

With the county administering this federal program, housing applications from private developers

were made directly to Hauppauge without going through the town for their input.

As a result, Brookhaven Town is being saddled with a subsidized housing project in Port Jefferson Station that local residents don't want. The town was also forced to drop out of the entire program for fear similar situations might erupt.

We now hope the towns will take further steps to break the chains the county has on them. The towns should even study whether they can do away with county government completely.

Connecticut did away with county government nearly two decades ago and hasn't suffered for it.

We urge the town supervisors and their council members to take a leadership role in bringing down county bureaucracy.

Their association should form a committee to prune away this needless layer of government and lobby to bring the changes about.

If they don't, they will do their local taxpayers a grave disservice and someday find themselves little more than figureheads. And why not?

the private developers?

If it is, then Suffolk residents have been sold a pig in a poke, or more appropriately, a cobra in a basket.

Suffolk County Airport has a tremendous potential for solving many of eastern Long Island's seasonal employment problems. A foreign trade zone could also aid the area's development as would any serious business venture.

If the developers of this trade park come up with any other propositions of the same caliber, we suggest the county figure a way to sever its agreement, before going any further with this folly.

Otherwise, we'll all sit around watching our belly buttons because navel lint will collect faster than any businesses to this industrial park. And why not?

Dear Sir:

Let me say that on the whole I enjoy and concur with most of your sentiments as expressed in your "Willmotts and Why-Not's."

Today, I received your Nov. 20 issue and I noted your comments on "Building a Better Tax Trap." You are so right!

The front page of your Nov. 20 issue carries an article captioned "\$200,000 needed for fields." The 5-year plan sought by Mr. Nicholas DeCillis is another part of the tax trap.

Who are Mr. Nicholas DeCillis and Mr. Peter Amato? They are only two (2) people interested in preserving their own jobs. They are not interested in the thousands of senior citizens and even junior citizens who will share the brunt of the extra taxes needed not only to pay their salaries, but also for the so-called improvements they seek.

When I attended high school, we did not have a field anywhere as good as the one pictured in your Nov. 20 issue. It is too damn bad if other schools do not want to play on the Middle Country Field! If the kids are such sissies, they shouldn't be playing on any field.

Who is forcing them to play there? Let them stay home and watch TV! I do not dare suggest that they do their homework!

DeCillis suggests the need to curtail some activities. Good. That is exactly what should be done.

I got through high school without any extra

'It's because they want it that way'

Mr. David Willmott,

Your comments on what's happening to the quality of education shows that you are one of the vanishing old-fashioned parents who demands quality work from teachers and students. However, there may be a few recent developments in education you may not be aware of. Did you know the number of concerned parents is rising? More than ever parents are reprimanding teachers for giving too much homework, for not "giving a little" to Junior's grade, for not easing up in class material presentation, for not being "sympathetic" to students who take two-week vacations in mid-October or mid-March. I know I've been teaching 15 year-olds for 12 years and have been under increasing parental pressure and administrative pressure to ease my demand for quality work, to lessen my assigned homework (three times a week is where it stands now) and to be "sympathetic" in tolerating cheating.

I'm sick and tired of trying to maintain standards in the face of parental opposition. I

'This center is greatly needed'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Each year seventy sets of Long Island parents will have to face the loss of a child to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (crib death).

Last year we were one of the seventy. Fortunately there was someone to help us and reassure us in our times of sorrow. The Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Regional Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook provided for us and continues to provide the guidance and counseling needed to help us understand this dreaded disease.

Long Island may once again get the short end of the stick. This regional center is in

burdens on the taxpayers.

There is absolutely no reason why today's teenager cannot do the same. There is absolutely no reason why today's teenager must have all the garbage sought by DeCillis and Amato.

There is no sensible reason for building one-story schools on large tracts of land. It is a waste of land and it cuts the tax base. Sure, the schools look beautiful! The question is, do we go to school to be in a fancy building or do we go to learn?

Sports are O.K., too. They provide recreation and exercise. However, the fatties who need exercise the most, usually do not care for sports.

If schools were built 4 and 5 stories high, all kids would get exercise, every day, without the need for special events, simply by walking up and down stairs as they go from classroom to classroom.

It is about time that the school districts, including the principals, administrators, teachers, and yes, the students, realize that you don't get anything for nothing and that some day their chickens will come home to roost.

It is time to cut out waste! It is time to wake up! L-2X

And Why Not?

I can see myself in the near future just saying, "I'll give them what they want. . . the easy way." It's much easier to give high class averages than to expect students to work for it. And after a year of phone calls from parents, admonitions from administrators to ease up. . . I feel the public is entitled to what they get -- nothing worth being proud of, nothing to build a productive life on.

Teachers are appointed by politicians (school boards), so teachers must be politicians. They are paid by public money to give the public what they want, how they want it. So if it's inferior, easy education they are getting, believe me, it's because they want it that way! L-5Z

Sincerely,
Mrs. Anne Mundy
Centereach

ED. NOTE: I hope you don't give up. You would be surprised at the number of parents who support your position. They're just not as vocal as those who want you to let Johnny slide by.

Action not meditation

While there's a crying need for local jobs and industry that can create them, the first enterprise signed for the proposed "trade park" at Suffolk County Airport is a meditation society.

Presumably, the society will teach us all how to contemplate our navels, so we can forget our unemployment problems.

Maybe the meditation society will teach our unemployed how to levitate themselves to the sunbelt where real jobs are available. Or perhaps the developers think it will create spin-off industries like factories that will make beds of nails.

Is this what County Executive John Klein and Floyd Linton had in mind when they made a backroom deal to have the county industrial agency float \$100 million in tax free bonds to

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Open letter to Senators Javits/Moynihan, Congressman Pike

Dear Sirs:

Understandably, a United States Senator is concerned with a multitude of problems affecting his constituents and more importantly all the people of America. But, as an individual I am concerned with a most serious personal problem - inflation.

The constant increase in the rate of inflation erodes the purchasing power of almost every American. But, the relentless spiral of price increases probably is felt more by retired persons on fixed incomes than by any other segment of our American society.

I am a retired person - on a fixed income. The poor receive government assistance in welfare, food stamps, etc., the working middle class enjoy salary and/or cost of living increases, and, the well-to-do (and the wealthy) savor the luxury of tax exempt

income and tax benefits not available to 95 per cent or more of the American taxpayers.

The prudent person sets aside a little of his income during the productive years for security in the sunset of life - today this prudent person faces severely reduced purchasing power of his savings because of the ever increasing rate of inflation.

Something must be done.

I, WE, ALL the people of this country depend upon YOU and YOUR fellow members in the Congress as our elected representatives to do something to help curb the relentless price rises which the United States is experiencing. L-8Y

Yours respectfully,
Ernest F. DeNigris
East Quogue

Our upside down justice

Rigid, petty government regulations are futile breeding grounds for lowly bureaucrats to be on the take.

The more stringent and unrealistic the regulations, the more there is a temptation for business owners to shake hands with the inspector with a folded bill in their palm.

Some of the more notorious political organizations, such as Tammany Hall, never would have existed without this system.

Petty bribery is mostly associated with the health and building departments whose codes and restrictions strangle those trying to do business within their confines.

Even legitimate and honest business people find the restrictions if all enforced so impossible to conform to that business in their affected fields could not exist.

Honest inspectors and investigators knowingly overlook minor infractions

that do not interfere with the quality of the end product. They know if they enforced each infraction, they would never have time to conduct inspections of places having more flagrant violations. They also are aware if every single condition was met, food would never be sold, nor would buildings be constructed.

Those less scrupulous use the threat of enforcing these inconsequential restrictions to intimidate builders, contractors, restaurant and food store owners into paying off systematically, often, when there aren't any violations. It just becomes a cost of doing business.

This is particularly true in your larger metropolitan areas, but a county like Suffolk are not exempt.

Last week, New York City's Health Department arrested a restaurant owner for paying off. This struck us as being a little crazy. For nowhere in the press release was there any in-

dication the Health Department had arrested any Health Inspector for taking bribes.

Bribery is a two way street, there is a seeker and a payer. You would think a seeker of a bribe would be guilty of a far more grievous offense than the payer. A payer of a bribe normally has not initiated the practice but succumbs to it as the lesser of two evils. The seeker in taking the bribe is negligent in his responsibility and his duties, as well as committing an illegal act.

In our upside down system of justice, the City of New York has changed all this and is attempting to place the onus for this mutually illegal act on the payee.

This is just another sickening example of the conditions of our society which has been brought about by the creation of big government.

Governmental bribery could be virtually eliminated if our govern-

ments would realistically face the source. We must eliminate unrealistic, unwarranted and meaningless rules and regulations instead of creating additional ones.

These rules and regulations drive up the cost of doing business, hinder development and expansion, cost jobs and profits, and ultimately tax dollars.

Many of these needless rules and regulations virtually do nothing to protect the public and the consumer.

The elimination would bring a welcomed sigh of relief from those affected and the public at large.

The only people, who would complain about the demise, would be those who utilize them to gain illegal pay-offs and a handful of bureaucrats, whose needless jobs would be eliminated for they would no longer have any asinine rules to enforce.

And why not?

Caputo to boss Republican majority

In what was unconvincingly heralded as a "hands off" policy by the Republican leadership, Joseph Caputo, of Lindenhurst was selected to be the presiding officer of the 1978-1979 County Legislature.

County Republican Leader Gil Hanse has claimed this selection was made without his interference, but there is more than one Republican legislator growling about having his arm twisted in making the selection.

Caputo, who has primarily been known for his outbursts of anger at those who disagreed with him, has in the past poor mouthed his colleagues and threatened to quit the legislature unless he got a raise. He does not strike us as the best choice for the county or the Republican party, particularly the party. In two years, the GOP will have to answer to all Suffolk residents when the Legislature and county executive come up for re-election.

The Republicans, unwittingly, have set themselves up as patsys. Because

of the structure of the Legislature, it will be difficult to be productive during a period when the public will be looking at this body with a jaundiced eye because of their past record of non-accomplishments and high costs.

What happens between now and the opening of the 1978 Legislature concerning the appointment of committee heads will bear close watching.

Some committees have been effectively administered by Democrats and those should remain in their positions. Other committees have been dismal failures and are in need of new leadership.

How Caputo acts in selecting the Chairmen of these committees will be a clear indication of what we can expect during '78 and '79, from the Legislature.

We hope Caputo has the sense to act with a cool head and in the interest of all Suffolk residents rather than just on a partisan basis. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'People everywhere were very moved by the articles, as I was'

Dear Dave:

I just wanted to express my appreciation to you for the support you gave me during the campaign. There is no question that your endorsement and support had an overwhelmingly positive effect on voters who read the articles concerning me.

Wherever your paper was circulated, I seem to have won, including the eastern part of Islip, such as Bayport and parts of Sayville. I only wish that my own campaign addressed itself to the slime that has heaped upon me as you did. Perhaps then the results would have been different.

'Society, itself is to blame'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It was with utter horror and uncontrollable rage with which I read your article concerning the dastardly and unprovoked attack against an 87-year-old widow in Patchogue.

The time has come to let those in power know that no longer will the people just stand around and do nothing when an attack of this nature occurs.

Society itself is to blame. Its very laws reflect the lax thinking of society towards delinquents. It is time we stop bending over backwards to protect these vermin and start thinking about not only our senior citizens, but all law abiding citizens as well.

What nincompoop arbitrarily set 16 and

I really wish that your newspaper was circulated throughout the county as a whole. People everywhere were very moved by the articles, as I was, and there is no question that your paper is a breath of fresh air in this one-newspaper county of ours.

I hope to see you soon in the future, and we can have a post-mortem over a couple of beers somewhere.

Thank you very much again.

With best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Henry F. O'Brien
Suffolk County District Attorney

under as the age of indifference towards society. Certainly, society owes these young people no less, but no more, than anyone else.

It is indeed a severe travesty of justice to allow these punks to roam the streets under the protection of the very laws they think so little of. When will laws be passed that offer as much protection to the victims as they do to the criminals.

I would like to start a fund for this unfortunate senior citizen and beg her forgiveness on behalf of our apathetic society. (L-18A)
Sincerely yours,
Richard M. Fey
Patchogue.

'I was shocked'

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Do they really know their job?

When you look every week at the actions of our elected representatives we sometimes scratch our heads and wonder whether they know what their job is all about.

To our mind, our government, and the elected officials who run it for us, should be involved in solving the problems that by their very nature, we as individuals can't solve by ourselves, and they should do it in the quickest, most efficient and least expensive way.

Unfortunately, the politicians that run our government forget about us and are concerned only with their parliamentary games and their jockeying for position in the public eye.

In the last week alone, there have been a series of prime examples where government officials have gone awry because they forget the ones that really count -- us, the taxpayers.

Example No. 1

In this week's paper, it is reported by staff writer Kevin McCoy that a doctor recruiting program passed by the county legislature way back in July has sat on the shelf for the last six months because John Klein has failed to set up the machinery to get the program underway.

This program would be an innovative solution to what has been a chronic problem on Eastern Suffolk -- the shortage of doctors.

Instead of having the county build clinics and staffing them and generally adding to the county bureaucracy, this program would simply make or guarantee loans for young doctors so they can set up their own offices in targeted areas. For a temporary investment, the county would get paid back with interest and have its needed doctors.

Klein said his delay is caused by the county legislature's failure to provide him with recommendations for a committee to screen doctors' applications. Our county executive showed no reluctance to make appointments for other jobs.

Maybe he is sulking because it wasn't his idea, or he is keeping it captive for a program he wants to see enacted. Whatever the reason, it's the taxpayers who are suffering as a result of these parliamentary shenanigans.

Example No. 2

Despite cries from town officials in Riverhead, Islip and Brookhaven, Klein last week vetoed a law which would allow the town building inspector to check out potential welfare housing before the social services department moves in recipients.

It creates no more bureaucracy and has town officials doing a job that the welfare department isn't doing itself. If enacted, it would assure local residents that large numbers of welfare recipients aren't dumped into

housing not zoned for multi-family use and that dwellings are safe and not hovels.

One legislator said Klein was taking an ostrich attitude and burying his head in the sand on a serious problem.

If Klein is going to veto this proposal he should have accompanied it with a solution of his own.

Example No. 3

Over ham sandwiches and cole slaw John Klein and Nassau County Executive elect Francis Purcell last week held a press gathering to talk over the "regional economy." It made a nice headline, but little else. Every couple of months, it seems there is some new advisory group formed on the economy, but little concrete work is done.

If Klein considered the economy a serious problem facing local taxpayers he would not have let the position of industrial commissioner remain open for up to nine months.

Instead of worrying about finding someone to provide county leadership in attracting industry and jobs, Klein has allowed the position to become a pawn in a partisan game between himself and the Democratic county legislature.

Again who suffers in the long run? You guessed it -- us.

Example No. 4

In the past week, our county executive lambasted the arbiters' award on the county police salary. Which only makes their position as highest paid cops in the nation more secure.

He criticized the provision in a state Taylor Law which leaves the final award up to the un-elected government bureaucrat who doesn't have to be responsive to the taxpayers' pocketbook. He claims he would like to see the final decision back in the heads of the county legislature.

This is precisely what he said last year. But what has he done to change the law? Has he contacted the local state legislators? Has he lobbied strongly for the change? Has he told them it is a priority matter?

We seriously doubt it. Solving the problem isn't his concern. Covering his political rear end is. He frankly doesn't care whether the police are paid too much. After all we're the ones getting it in the neck, not him.

In the cases above, the actions of our government leaders were prompted by petty bickering and desire to get their names in print, not any real desire to serve the public's needs.

If only our officials would weigh each action in terms of whether it advances the cause of serving the public's needs, there would be less bull and more action toward solving the real problems facing our local area. And why not?

The farmer strike

Farmers, across the nation, are attempting to draw attention to their plight by calling for a nationwide farm strike.

The farmers claim the money they are receiving for the products they raise has not kept up with inflation, and, as a result, many are losing money. Some say they are on the verge of losing their farms.

They want government aid.

It's pretty hard to convince the average housewife struggling to make ends meet and being confronted daily with ever-rising supermarket prices that farmers are in any worse shape than she is.

Throw into this pot, the popular notion that most large farms across the country are owned by corporations, not farmers and popular support is hard to generate.

Here on Eastern Long Island, farming is still one of our big businesses.

Our entire economy is affected, when prices are high or the market drops.

We have all heard of the good years, when farmers received 400 and 500 per cent more for their products than it cost them to produce. These years

are far and few between. They were mostly associated with the boom days after World War II.

During the '70's, it has cost a farmer between \$3 and \$4 per hundred weight to raise potatoes. At market, he has received from \$2 to \$8 per hundred weight, depending upon the size of the Delaware, New Jersey and Maine crops. The years when the harvest is bountiful, in other areas, he is lucky to break even.

When these states do not produce enough to meet market demands, he enjoys exceptional profits. Last year, when potatoes were in bloom, it looked like there would be a glut on the market. By fall, a huge new European market had opened up due to the persistent drought. The farmers in 1976 ended up with a decent year even though it would not be characterized as a boom.

This year, the market has been soft.

Potatoes are being sold close to cost, and, in some cases, at a loss. Most farmers are storing the majority of their crops, anticipating higher winter and spring prices.

Farming is a business like any other. You invest your money. You plan as well as you are capable. You

work as hard as you can and hopefully at the end of the year, you have a profit.

Farmers, who are engaging in this national farm strike, are aiming at the wrong target.

Instead of seeking federal handouts in the form of subsidies or price guarantees, they should be demanding the government use its power to drive down the cost at the retail end by eliminating the fat that has been built up in the middle...

A hundred pounds of Long Island potatoes, is currently bringing the farmer between \$3.50 and \$4, for washed and packaged 10 lb. bags. These same bags are selling in the supermarkets anywhere from 89 cents to \$1.79 per 10 lbs. It is not the supermarkets that are making the killing.

Most supermarkets here on Long Island are lucky to end up with a net profit of one half per cent.

The most successful major supermarket that we have heard of is turning a little over four per cent profit. It is the brokers, the distributors, the transporters, and the warehousemen which are driving up the cost in food. This is where the far-

mers should be insisting the federal government do its job.

Subsidies and minimum prices can only lead to higher supermarket prices. In fact, it will even increase the profits of the middlemen as these markups in dollars are based on percentage increases on the purchase price from the farmers.

Another fear farmers should have in asking for heavy federal intervention is the eventual socializing of the farms.

If the cost of obtaining food gets out of hand the blame can be laid on the farmer, momentum will be generated among the public for the government to intervene by taking over all production of food.

The farmers' strike appears to be misguided and aimed at the wrong target. The farmers' attention should be re-aimed at the marketing system between in-field and the supermarket shelf.

They will find widespread support from consumers that will lead to action resulting in higher prices for the farmer and lower prices for the consumer. And why not?

Largest peacetime tax hike

Your Social Security taxes will be raised by up to 200 per cent during the next decade.

Social Security taxes are collected on a national basis but this tax hike will especially affect those of us who live on L.I., because our median family income is higher than the national average.

Nationwide, the average family income is just a little over \$10,000.

On Long Island the average family income is over \$17,000. We make more money, but because of the higher cost of living, we do not enjoy any better life than our counterparts in the other states.

As our family income is driven up by inflation, we not only will be paying a higher rate of taxes, but we also will be paying social security taxes on a larger part of our income.

This huge tax increase spells a double disaster for L.I., as our employers will have their share of the tax load increased.

As he pays more into the Social Security fund, he will have less left in his budget to give raises or share profits. In addition, his prices will be less competitive, he will sell less, and need fewer people. This will increase your chances for unemployment.

This whole approach is what we feared when Jimmy Carter was running for President. When we endorsed Gerald Ford, we editorialized about Carter's concept of what was middle-class. During his campaign, he had said he planned on

gouging those rich and affluent who earned over \$10,000.

Carter was drawing upon his Georgia background and national statistics without applying them to the high living costs of the industrial areas of the Northeast.

There is little that can be done now to stop this gouging of your spendable income.

This expensive lesson should teach all of us to be more vigilant and to pay more attention to what is happening on the national scene.

What happens in Washington does definitely affect the paycheck we bring home. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'I have nothing to lose but my self respect'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I am writing in response to the Nov. 23 story on Lynn Avedisian. I can not believe this could happen. Education is very important to me, since I am also a student of Suffolk Community College.

This woman is using taxpayers money for support and education. It is a disgrace that she considers herself so far above everyone else.

I support three children and am a student in the R.N. nursing program. The only difference is I work 5 days & 2 nights at a local department store, and attend classes at night. You see my ability to find an education and better jobs is vitally important.

Mrs. Avedisian, if she is sincere in her desire for bettering herself in finding a worthwhile job, should get a full time job and education, also. She makes us who work hard

and are genuine in our quest for better jobs seem cheap.

Most students manage to do both. There is no reason Mrs. Avedisian can't. She makes me sick, a sponge who gripes because the Welfare Department has become smart.

I do hope she finishes school, a Physical Therapy Assistant is a good job. But if welfare can support her education, it can support mine. I could go days instead of nights, I could finish in 2 years not 4 years. I wouldn't have to try extra hard to maintain my 3.80 average. If she continues or anyone else, it will be worth it to give up my fun job for Welfare support, I have nothing to lose but my self respect. L-20A

Signed,

A mother, worker, student, and taxpayer.

'We were delighted'

Dear Editor:

We were delighted to see your November 27 article regarding the rights of non-smokers in Suffolk County. Your readers might wish to request a copy of our November Newsletter which details some of the specific regulations protecting the rights of non-smokers to breathe the clean air (including priority in hospital rooms and airplanes).

Also listed are a number of restaurant and other places of business which offer smoke-free sections or prohibit smoking entirely. If your readers know of establishments which restrict or prohibit smoking beyond the requirement of law, we'll share the information through subsequent Newsletters. Our Riverhead office is located at 405 Ostrander Ave.; phone 727-2155. (L-6A)

Sincerely,
Barbara S. Trenk
Public Relations Coordinator
American Lung Association of Nassau-Suffolk

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Bungled airport opportunity

Suffolk County residents just received another kick in the teeth when the county executive's office let slip through its hands a \$35,000 rental at the Suffolk County Airport in Westhampton.

The Veterans Administration was interested in renting 20,000 square feet of warehouse space plus 2,000 square feet of office space in preparation for construction of the Calverton VA cemetery.

They made an appointment with the Airport manager who is part of Klein's office through a Riverhead real estate agent, Edwin Tuccio. When Tuccio and the Vets Administration's representative arrived

from Washington D.C., at the base for their appointment, the county representative could not be found. They returned later in the day and the Air Base manager showed them what they had available.

Many of the buildings are in disrepair, but what is even worse, according to Tuccio, is a number of the sites that were littered with abandoned equipment and as a whole reflected the county's indifferent attitude towards the airport.

The Vets Administration needed the property immediately, as they must start operations by February 1. It will include the employment initially of 89 people.

When they heard it would take a minimum of two and probably six months for the approval of a lease, the Vets Administration rented a private piece of property in Riverhead, which rental is estimated to be worth \$35,000 per year.

This \$35,000 should have gone to the County of Suffolk. But now this opportunity that would have helped turn the Airport into a profit maker for the County is lost.

John Klein sitting in his lofty tower at the County Center may not give a damn about \$35,000. He probably even considers it a piddling sum. When spread over the County, \$35,000 wouldn't reduce your tax bill by more

than a few mills. But, as all of us in business know, mills add up to cents, cents into dollars and very often are the element that makes the difference between making a profit or sustaining a loss. It is this kind of attitude that is dragging Suffolk down toward the depths of New York City.

Plainly, this is rank mismanagement and total incompetence. How much longer can we afford to put up with the King and his total indifferent attitude towards the residents of Suffolk County. And why not?

We wish you a Merry Christmas

Throughout the year, the staff and management of Suffolk Life goes all out trying to come up with the kind of pictures, editorials, news and feature stories that our readers want to see. We also put together the kind of advertising that will produce results like no other media in the local area. Our

circulation people and the network of thousands of carriers make sure that the paper with news and ads are brought to your house promptly and neatly.

It is a 12 month, round-the-clock effort, and by the time Christmas rolls around, like Santa's elves, we

get kind of pooped out.

To give our workers, who are the best bunch of people in the world a break, Suffolk Life will only publish once this week and next, foregoing a Christmas Day and New Year's Day edition.

Because we work to serve you and

your interests all year long, we at Suffolk Life feel that you are part of our newspaper family. As a member of your family, we sincerely wish you the best of holiday seasons for both you and your own families. And why not?

'Let us face the unpleasant fact that the treaty was unfair'

Dear Sir:

Why people like Commander Bush (Readers' Opinion, 12-4-77) cannot see the obvious (to me) truth about the Panama Canal issue is beyond my comprehension. We do not own the Canal Zone now because we never bought it, as Ronald Reagan claims we did. As Senator Hayakawa put it half-facetiously, "We stole it fair and square." What this country really bought back in 1903 was the right to build and operate a canal. No clause in the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty made the United States sovereign in Panama.

Let us face the unpleasant fact that the treaty was grossly unfair to both Columbia and Panama. Moreover, it has been obsolete for many years.

Whether or not the new treaties, in their present forms, are right for our country, I am not sure. Certainly they are controversial, and I do have reservations about the huge annual payment that the United States would make to Panama. But about this I am sure: It is long past time for a change.

If I do write our senators, as Commander Bush requests, the purpose will be, not to protest, but to recommend further careful consideration of the matter. L-8A

Very truly yours,
J. Franklin
Bohemia

'So put a first class veteran in 1st class soil'

Dear Editor:

After reading your front page about objections from the Department of Interior on the Veterans cemetery at Calverton, I am shocked.

I understand the farm bureau concern, but my concern is without veterans, there would be no farm bureau, there would be no Calverton, and in fact, there would be no Suffolk Life.

So put a first class veteran in first class soil. (and why not?). (L-12A)

One of many World War II Veterans
Walter D. Witt, Sr.
Wading River

READERS' OPINION

'All and all, it does not seem equitable'

Dear Editor:

With regard to the proposed Mascony ferry from Greenport to New London, the people of Greenport can sympathize with the Southold man who has to cross the Sound frequently and hopes for better service from such a ferry. Nevertheless, there are good reasons to question whether a new ferry would end the problems of the present one, and also to ask whether the convenience of a few year-round users of the ferry justifies the damage it will result in for Greenport.

Experienced mariners consider the Sound one of the most treacherous stretches of water on our coast. Storms whip its water into heavy seas very quickly. Squalls are common. Even waterspouts have raked its surface on occasion. Not many years ago, a tugboat, a highly powered craft, was lost with its crew off Huntington, and the record of losses in the day of steamboats is chilling. No boat will be immune to the tossing and possible structural damage that a storm on the Sound involves, and cars, not tied down on a ferry could be thrown about. Passengers could become seasick. In short, it would be

only prudent for any ferry company to cancel trips when the Sound kicks up.

The Mascony ferry idea evidently seemed attractive to Greenporters at one time. Why do they now oppose it? The answer is that it took a while to realize that Mascony's plans for feeding cars on and off its ferry would pour cars, making turns onto a street that is already overloaded, and would cause monumental traffic jams in the tourist season that now supports a high per cent of Greenport's business. Alternate plans have fallen through. Mascony itself realizes the problem, and went so far as to suggest that Greenport ban trailer trucks from the affected street to make the ferry traffic less critical, but this is impractical for some of Greenport's industry and stores.

All in all, it does not seem equitable to undermine Greenport's prosperity for problematical gain for transients and a few unhappy year-round commuters. (L-14A)

Sincerely,
Frederick S. Lightfoot
Greenport

'Dedicated and lived there'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have never written a letter to an editor before, however, since reading your article of Dec. 4th, "Live Where You Work", I could do nothing else.

I've been employed by the N.Y.C.P.D. for the past 5 years, 4 of which I spent in the precinct where I grew up, which was the South Bronx.

During the time, I worked in the Bronx, I made numerous arrests which may have caused my being followed home on two occasions. I have also had a few threatening letters mailed to me.

None of which I took seriously, however, my wife did, and caused her to fear for our daughter. I understand there is a certain amount of danger and harassment connected with my job, but it shouldn't involve my family. It took all of this plus the arguments at home to move me to where I am now.

You state "...they commute back and forth...and twice a month bring and spend their paychecks where they live." Tell me please sir, the difference between spending my money at this Pathmark or the one in the Bronx.

When you stated "public employers who are paid...and live in communities other than the one that they are employed in...lose a sense of feeling and identity with that community they are unable to comprehend or understand the problems of that community." You sir, must have been near a mental collapse. How in the world can anyone forget what it's like to have roaches crawl over them? How can a person forget his brother being bitten by a mouse? How can a person forget not being able to eat a slice of bread because the mice got to the loaf first, or chasing a mouse and killing it in his daughter's room.

She was only one year old and still in a crib. Which in my case was 5 mice in 3 months. No one can forget being beaten up by junkies for only 15 cents. Lose a sense of feeling and identity, not comprehending or understanding. Are you serious? I am talking of things I have experienced. I may not be a special case, but I am one of many police officers who do not want rats and roaches or mice and junkies for their children if possible.

Dedicated and Hired There

VOL. 17 NO. 83

SUFFOLK LIFE

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The coming of 1978

1978 may prove to be a year of greatness for Suffolk residents.

Freshman Legislator Denis Hurley will introduce on January 2 a resolution to return the county legislature to the Board of Supervisors. We hope this will just be the start of a move to totally abolish Suffolk County government.

County government is an expensive wasteland of mismanagement and duplication that is costing the taxpayers over a half billion dollars per year.

Most of the services being performed by the county are a copy of services being provided by the state and the towns. Most of Suffolk's towns are of the size that they can well afford and already are performing functions that the county is involving themselves in. The state, on the other hand, already is providing services that the county is trying to emulate.

The end result is a terrible waste of taxpayers' hard-earned money, a triplicate set of laws, rules and regulations that must be complied with and an insensitive layer of government.

The deprogramming of Suffolk County will be a difficult task, requiring absolute determination and perseverance. Every step along the way will be loaded with self-serving booby traps designed to create the illusion of necessity.

The end result of deprogramming Suffolk County government will be lower taxes for the residents, less bureaucracy, yet a more responsive and cohesive form of government.

There is no other project of more importance or with more merit facing the legislature and the residents of Suffolk County in 1978.

We encourage everyone to become involved and active in this movement. And why not?

Is King John really The Grinch?

'Twas the week before Christmas in the Land of Suffering when King John's fiefdom of Social Services appealed to Ye Old Town crier to spread the word far and wide that there would be children that Santa would not visit this year.

The story was written and it reached many eyes. Upon reading it, a kindly gentleman, who life had been good to, generously offered to help. All he asked was to remain anonymous.

Ye old scribe joyously contacted King John's Department of Social Services. He explained the nature of the gift. A young female voice, who in the spirit of Christmas shall also remain anonymous, answered "beautiful."

We arranged for the department to send a representative to our office to pick up a check. All we asked for was a receipt. 'Twasn't an hour gone by and the phone started to ring.

It was the young miss' supervisor bearing bad tidings. He had heard from upstairs that because of the size of the gift, there would have to be a

resolution passed by all the King's soldiers and all the King's legislative men and officially signed by the King himself to accept it.

Ye old scribe who is not noted for his thoughts of kindness for the King, had a few choice words that can't be published in a family tablet, but he'd be damned before he'd let the King's bureaucracy get in the way of Santa coming down the chimney on Christmas Eve.

He arranged to have the young miss he originally talked to, go to one of Santa's workshops to pick out the gifts that the children would want.

Through the cooperation of Santa's helpers, they were able to circumvent all the King's rules and all the King's regulations.

There would be a Christmas in some of the homes in the Land of Suffering that there wouldn't have been if old King John, who we really suspect must be the grinch in disguise, had had his way. Once again, the grinch has failed and there is rejoicing in the Land of Suffering. And why not?

As 1977 draws to a close, we would like to thank all of our readers, all of our advertisers, all of our contributors, and everyone who has played a part in Suffolk Life during the past year.

As you have undoubtedly noticed, our newspapers have made great strides.

Suffolk Life looks better, feels better, and is a lot more readable. It truly has become a newspaper of importance.

Its massive, twice weekly, close to 200,000 circulation has played a very important part in communicating the news and views of the people and the government.

In most cases, when a story is about ready to break, you read about it here in detail before it happens, long

before the story becomes news to the dailies and weeklies.

This would not happen if it was not for our highly ingenious, dedicated, young news staff led by Suffolk Life's news editor, Rick Brand.

This news is presented in a readable and refreshing style through the efforts of our production department.

Of course, Suffolk Life would not be delivered to your homes if it was not for the advertisers and the voluntary payment of your subscriptions.

We are going to work even harder during the coming year and with your continued support, we will be bringing you a better Suffolk Life in 1978.

All of us here at Suffolk Life wish you a happy, healthy and a peaceful New Year. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'I feel you are out in left field'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am writing in regard to your article in Suffolk Life, "Live Where You Work." You fail to mention in your article quite a few important items. Many of us commuters would love to live where we work, or work where we live, consider the great exodus your Long Island would have if all people that work in New York City, Brooklyn, Queens, etc., lived where they worked. Let's face it, many people who work in other areas do so because Suffolk County cannot offer a decent job, with decent pay. Some were born here in Suffolk, and still can't afford to support their families on the type of employment available.

The high taxes new homes demand are also quite a burden to the commuter, people who have older homes (worth just as much as the newer ones) pay a lot less tax, maybe they can afford. I receive \$3.00 per hour and live on it.

I feel you are out in left field on this article. Another factor is the type of living in these city areas. If the areas were decent, and a parent could raise their children without fear, most commuters would gladly give up the wonderful 2 or 3 hour drive, traffic, tolls, wear and tear on their cars, accidents, some

even dying, all to help support the area they live in by paying high taxes to Suffolk County on other areas.

So I suggest instead of living where you work, you work where you live, if the area in which you live can provide decent positions for their residents. Most Long Islanders pay their share. Supply them with jobs, and you will see less traffic and commuters.

And why not?
F. McNair
Medford.

I must add my husband would like nothing better than to return to Long Island to work, but there are no positions open in his field and his department. One cannot transfer between state departments.

Most important and not mentioned, 1. our freedom in a Democracy, our America is now threatened, our freedom of voice, of where to live, our freedom of school, by busing, has already taken place, our children no longer go to the school of our choice, though taxes are taken for the school district we choose to live in. It has not happened to my children, I hope it doesn't. L-4B
Mrs. McNair

'It is no wonder that farmers throw up their hands'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This is in regards to your editorial in Suffolk Life of Dec. 18 in the Middle Island-Coram edition concerning the Farmers' Strike, which is aiming at the wrong target by asking for government aid after they had good years when they made profits of 400 and 500 per cent over costs of production. Their aim should be instead at the marketing system.

Your editorial as presented was quite interesting but lacking in many facts as concerns farmers. Your lack of facts can be illustrated by the enclosed clipping taken from page 15 of an old fashioned reaper left stranded on the Smith Farm. This machine is in fact a one horse, one man dump hay rake, so let's have more facts and more sides revealed as effects farmers and their duties.

Let's use more words such as "regulated", "negotiated" and "mandated". It is no wonder that farmers throw up their hands and scream for help. The market place is a joke when you try to obtain a better price for the produce. Suppose we applied this idea for teachers, policemen, firemen or laborers when they want better wages. These people negotiate for better pay, working conditions, benefits, etc. such as paid sick days, paid vacations, personal days. After all this has been obtained, can the salaries be controlled downward by having more teachers, etc. trained so that possibly with a greater supply of teachers or workers, the salary can be reduced.

I think not because the salaries are now mandated by contract or by the law of the land.

A farmer is also regulated in many ways by government of different levels such as

federal, state and local, by agencies such as E.P.A., O.S.H.A., I.C.C., I.R.A., A.S.C.A. and many more. The prices paid for goods delivered to the farm are fixed, wages are regulated, health standards are mandated without regards or relationship to the prices he receives in the market place.

A farmer should also have the right to negotiate a favorable price for his produce as do teachers, policemen and laborers, etc. Once these prices are negotiated, they should be mandated as are the salaries of teachers, policemen and laborers, etc.

Your story of 500 per cent profit which was obtained many years ago should be compared to a teacher who received \$1,200 back in 1940 to \$18,000 received now for the same position. What per cent of increase would you say this is? So report more sides to the story with more facts. (L-4C)

John Szuster
Yaphank

'New representatives should be considered'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your item in the recent issue relative to the deplorable situation of our Social Security System has been mentioned a number of times in various publications.

What is missing in the Press reports is that the situation is definitely the fault of our misguided Congress.

At election time, more stress should be placed on this thought and new representatives should be considered. (L-11A)

William J. Kelsch
Shoreham

SUFFOLK LIFE

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