

# We can't survive doubled town taxes

One year from now, our town taxes will be doubled. You will not be putting twice as many cops on the streets. You will not be increasing your recreational facilities. You will not be building new roads, bridges or repairing what we have. You will not be doubling the salaries of our elected town officials or the town employees. Your town taxes will double to comply with a mandate sponsored by your assemblymen, your state senators and the governor of the State of New York.

In their infinite wisdom, they have enacted a law that requires all landfills on Long Island to be closed in December of 1990. Without town dumps, we will have to ship our garbage off Long Island, or build waste disposal plants costing hundreds of millions of dollars. These plants, that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), under the governor's rule, is ordering to be built, may or may not,

when completed, receive DEC approval to operate. The governor, through the DEC, has failed to provide a recommended method for handling garbage, nor developed standardized plans that the DEC will approve and guarantee they will continue to approve over the life of the plants.

The governor and the state legislature, which enacted this mandate, have failed to provide the funding to meet the mandate. The DEC has issued a demand that the towns either be in compliance by December of 1990, face ludicrous fines or truck Long Island generated garbage out of the state. They don't say how, where, or provide an area to receive this garbage.

This is not a scare editorial. The facts are very plain to see. Compliance with the mandate will double our local taxes. We believe the legislature and the governor --without exploring the

ramifications-- passed the bill mandating the closing of the landfills. The result is utter chaos in most Long Island towns.

We have not been convinced since the enactment of this legislation in 1982, that there was an absolute necessity to close the landfills.

Some dumps are located over terrain that acts as a natural barrier and stops leachates from reaching fresh water. Tests on other operating dumps, where pollution has occurred, have indicated that the flow of leachates is moving at the rate of just one foot per year. In the one dump that was cited, it would take 1,000 years for the leachates to reach the perimeter of the dump. In other cases, the leachates were moving out to sea away from fresh water supplies. Wouldn't it have been more logical to close those facilities that were causing problems? Why close all if not necessary?

Long Island is approximately 120 miles in length. Are there no places on this island where it would be feasible for a landfill to be operated without affecting fresh water?

If we use the popular methods, costing hundreds of millions of dollars, that are being proposed, aren't we opening ourselves up to additional environmental concerns? If we burn, won't there be pollutants in the air? What are we going to do with the ash residue that may be, because of its concentration, even more heavily toxic? The suggestion now is the ash should be put in a lined landfill. But how can we do that if landfills are so bad they must be closed?

If we compost, which will reduce the waste stream by 50 percent, what will we do with the residue? The DEC says you cannot use it as fertilizer for food production, as there is a chance that toxics which may be contained therein will find their way into the food chain. If we recycle, what do we do with our nice neat piles of separated refuse? The state has failed to develop markets for recyclable metal, plastics and paper. Prior to our recycling efforts, there was a market. Mysteriously, this market has disappeared and now the towns are faced with hav-

ing to pay \$40 to \$100 dollars per ton to have this refuse hauled away.

The whole situation stinks and is a foul example of the absolute lack of leadership, direction or planning by the state.

It is typical of the mentality that permeates this bureaucracy. Mandate, and let "them" worry about it. Fine them if they don't comply.

We say we can't afford to comply and survive here on Long Island. We simply do not have the money to pay for a doubling of our local taxes. The governor and the state legislature which brought this condition upon us should take their mandates and stick them where they will do more good.

The 1990 landfill mandate must be rescinded. Our whole garbage crisis must be reevaluated from a standpoint of common sense, logic and a balance between our concern for the environment and the ability of the taxpayers to pay for proposed "solutions." This is a crisis on Long Island. The only solution at this point is a postponement. Nothing else makes sense.

We have heard enough rhetoric from the governor about drinking our own garbage. These scare tactics don't fly when you can't survive on Long Island because of the taxes. We hope that the governor and the legislature immediately propose and enact the legislation necessary to postpone this ill-conceived measure.

Tax PAC, the taxpayers' lobbying group, is circulating a petition demanding that this law be postponed and reevaluated. We encourage every Long Island resident to sign these petitions. We also encourage you to fill out the coupon printed below and send it to Southold Tax PAC Chairman Joseph Ristuccia, P.O. Box 611, Southold, NY, 11971, chairman of the petition drive. He and other Tax PAC officials will present your input to the governor, the assembly majority leader and the senate majority leader.

Taxpayers on Long Island must join hands to fight the state bureaucracy. We have no choice.

And why not?

# A political payoff!

It should come as no surprise that political losers often become financial winners when a defeat at the polls brings them a high paying governmental spot. A look at the payrolls of towns and county will reveal names of political losers who are now making far more than they received when they were elected, or appointed, officials.

Thus, it should come as no surprise that word is circulating that Suffolk County Legislator Wayne Prospect, denied the nomination for reelection by his own political party, will have a high-paying, soft position waiting for him when he leaves office at the end of this year.

The word is this: Prospect is to be appointed to a position to be created at the Suffolk County Water Authority, where his friend Leon Campo is Authority chairman. The title will be "Director of Environmental Services" and the salary is to be \$60,000 per year. As a legislator, his salary was \$39,384. That kind of a salary increase can sure take the sting out of an election loss!

Campo is Authority chairman because of the efforts of Prospect and Presiding Officer Gregory Blass. They provided the push and other legislators went along like good little boys. We can only assume they got a piece of the pie in some other way, some other time.

Interestingly, Campo, when questioned last Friday, denied any knowledge of such action. He insisted there was no new job being considered. "We're not considering Wayne Prospect for anything," Campo declared. However, Walter Hazlitt, executive director of the water authority, said there has been discussion on that possibility with members of the board. "His name is under consideration," Hazlitt

said.

We're not surprised that Campo arrogantly denies the payoff scheme while others admit the truth. And we're not surprised at this political abuse of ratepayers' money. We assumed Prospect would bounce back on his feet at someone's expense. Since he is without the support of Dominic Baranello, who has a say in all new county appointments, and has no friends in the Halpin administration, the Water Authority is the logical place where Prospect would resurface.

If this comes to pass, there are serious questions that must be raised. Is the new position really necessary? Has the position been advertised? How many people have been interviewed for the post? Does Prospect have the best qualifications for the job? Or is the Authority playing the same political games it has in the past?

Recent history forces us to believe the last. At the same time the Authority has acted to raise the rates, supposedly to pay for needed filters for polluted wells, Campo was seeking to double his salary, and is now involved in plans for a \$10 million new headquarters.

It's time to stop playing games with the people's hard-earned dollars. Suffolk County Water Authority ratepayers should watch carefully. If, indeed, the word about Prospect's new position comes to pass, they should take a strong stand against the political misuse of their money. And they should demand that Campo be removed from office to prevent any additional political payoffs at the expense of improvement of water quality and service.

And why not?

## Dear Governor Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Marino, Assembly Majority Leader Miller:

We, the undersigned, DEMAND the 1990 Landfill Law that mandates our town landfill facilities to be closed at the end of 1990 be postponed and reevaluated.

We are not convinced all dumps must be closed for health purposes. We are not sure there is an alternative method for disposing of our garbage that is without environmental problems of equal concern.

The state has failed to provide recommended and approved methods, plans or funding.

We cannot afford a doubling of our town taxes to comply with a questionable state mandate.

Name.....

Address.....

Town.....



# Garbage crisis, mob's home runs

During this fall's political interviews, one long-term incumbent declared, "I am uncomfortable that every time the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issues a rule or a mandate, the mob makes another home run."

During these discussions on the problems of refuse and recycling, it became more and more apparent the DEC's ruling closing the dumps and ordering recycling may not benefit the environment, but will definitely benefit the industries organized crime has traditionally been associated with.

Initially, the DEC stopped municipalities from open burning of trash. The DEC said the fumes from the dumps were harmful. They ordered the towns to embark upon million dol-

lar landfills, requiring huge amounts of sand that had to be trucked to the sites in many instances.

The DEC then admitted that it had made a mistake at the towns' expense. Piling garbage on top of garbage in between layers of sand, open to the weather, created leachates which filtered down into the water supply. The DEC then ordered the landfills to be lined. It created a pretty buzz word for these dumps, called cells. As the dumps, or cells, became filled, the DEC found that the decomposing garbage created methane. They then ordered the dumps to be covered with a liner on top, and ordered that the methane gas be vented out of the dumps.

The state legislature, based on rec-

ommendations from the DEC, has now ordered all dumps closed by December, 1990. They have not told the towns how to handle their garbage. They have not offered a standard plant for burning or composting the garbage. What they have said is that the towns cannot dump garbage as of December, 1990. If they do not have a plant in operation, the garbage will have to be trucked off Long Island. They do not say where, nor do they say that they will provide any of the funding for either the creation of the plants or the disposal of the garbage.

Most supervisors have estimated that complying with these state mandates, whether it be through the creation of a facility or hauling the garbage off Long Island, will double

local taxes. Two supervisors who took the mandate seriously and attempted to put together a workable solution to this problem went down to defeat. Supervisor Frank Murphy from Southold and Supervisor Toni Rettaliata from Huntington felt the wrath of the voter when the voters realized the horrendous costs associated with these projects.

Some of the East End towns have already faced hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines from the DEC for not moving fast enough. Some of the towns have enacted recycling programs in which residents have been asked to voluntarily participate, others have been mandated to separate their garbage into paper, metal, glass and household refuse. This recycling was supposed to eliminate up to 70 percent of the waste stream. This would be good if someone in the state had figured out where the towns could sell this sorted material. Instead of the state developing ready markets for the recycled materials, state officials have again left the towns holding the bag.

Towns used to earn \$40 per ton for paper collected through recycling efforts. It now costs some towns \$40 per ton to dispose of paper. As the towns separated and recycled metal and glass, the buyers for these commodities disappeared too. The towns are paying \$35 to \$50 per ton to have these nicely separated glass and metal materials hauled away.

Our refuse and recycling programs are in a total state of disarray because the state dropped the ball. Let's make it clear that when we refer to the state we are specifically referring to Governor Mario Cuomo's administration. It is he who appoints the DEC commissioner, who has set the tone, developed the mandates, issued the orders and who is levying the fines against the towns. This is the same Governor Cuomo who developed the solution to bail out LILCO, but has failed to have his administration act reasonably, or assist the local municipalities in their quest to clean up the environment. All it would take is an edict from Cuomo to make his DEC commissioner shape up and work cooperatively with the town officials, rather than dictatorially.

Just as has happened with LILCO, there are some people in high places who are making, and are going to make, incredible fortunes out of our refuse and recycling mess. It is we, the taxpayers, who are going to have to shoulder the burden of having the cost of local government doubled because the governor and his administration have failed to provide the funding, the mechanics or the expertise.

One might ask if Governor Cuomo really cared about Long Island, its people and the cost of living here, why he didn't have the DEC develop a standard set of plans, provide the funding for the construction and the markets for recycling before he imposed such horrendous costs on the people. Isn't it time he did?

And why not?

## But for the grace of God

I vividly remember my old Irish grandmother's reaction whenever she heard of a tragedy or an illness. "There, but for the grace of God, go I," she would say. This bit of Irish logic has stuck with me to this day. It is one of the reasons why many of us have become involved in "The Group."

"The Group" is a gathering of people from many different walks of life, different religions and different economic backgrounds, who have come to realize that they are fortunate in being where they are in life, and have decided to try to help others who have faced adversity due to circumstances beyond their control.

There are a number of children each year who would normally have a happy Christmas, but won't this year because their parents have faced some tragedy or circumstance which could range from the loss of a job to physical impairment. These folks fall through all the safety nets that have been set up by society. Either they are too proud to seek help, or not poor enough to be eligible for our governmental social projects. Their needs are normally kept quiet, and it is only through friends or associates that we become aware of the situations. Upon

verification of these needs, members of "The Group" "adopt" these folks and shop for not only the necessities, which could be anything from underwear to underwear, but a few toys, games, and other special items that are included in the dreams of a young mind.

This year we thought we were in good shape. We had the shoppers lined up, and a number of gift wrapping volunteers. We had a list of people who needed assistance. We got underway, confident that we would be able to fill all the needs of those on our lists.

We are not quite sure what has happened, but we received a number of very legitimate requests for help for families who have been able to make it in the past but, because of cutbacks in the economy, won't this year. Some of these families have been affected by strikes, cutbacks in employment or reductions in positions. We are trying to do what we can, but, to be frank, we are rapidly running out of funds. The funds that capitalize "The Group" come from a small core of contributors who have been with us since the beginning, and many other contributions that come from folks who have heard about our efforts and want to

reach out and help someone the best they can. None of us knows when the tables are going to be turned on us, when we may be in need or when our children will fall upon bad times.

"The Group" operates under a structure that all names of recipients are kept confidential. In many cases, the recipients do not know they are being helped until the deliverers arrive with the gifts. Outside of the simple identification, "we are from The Group," they do not know who we are. They never have to worry about anyone identifying them. They don't even have to say thank you, as everything comes from "Santa Claus."

We know your budgets are probably stretched at this time of year as you are trying to do the best you can for those who are near and dear to you. If, by chance, you do have any additional funds you could offer to help others, it would help bring Christmas to some kids whom Santa will otherwise have to skip.

"The Group" and all the kids who benefit from our dedication and work thank all of you who have so generously donated in the past. You may contact the group by writing, "The Group," P.O. Box 167, Riverhead, New York 11901. Merry Christmas!

And why not?

## Some legislators hung tough

Thirteen members of the Suffolk County Legislature hung tough recently when they overrode "High Tax" Halpin's vetoes on the budget to reduce the \$41 million cut they had promised the taxpayers. In a rare case of intelligent bipartisanship, two Democrats, Sondra Bachety and Richard Schaffer, joined with the Republicans to fight for the taxpayers.

Those legislators who opposed the taxpayers and supported Halpin by siding with him to add \$8,390,973 to the tax burden were:

Democratic Legislators John Foley, Steven Englebright, George Nolan, Maxine Postal and James Gaughran.

We were relieved to see that we had not supported any of these individuals for re-election. We felt they were enemies of the taxpayer, and it didn't take them long to prove us right.

The \$41 million reduction in taxes amounts to less than half of the increase the legislature approved last year, the astronomical rise in taxes which spawned the tax revolt. The cut is in the right direction, but is only the start of the war on taxes. Currently, Suffolk

County residents are paying about 50 percent more in taxes than similar municipalities in the nation. But we don't receive more or better services. We just pay a lot more.

The legislature now should look at the \$1.3 billion budget and, as an ongoing project, find ways to cut and prune the fat, eliminate the duplication, the waste and the patronage. This is the mission of the nineties. Our elected officials must make Long Island's economy competitive, and keep living here affordable for its citizens.

And why not?



# Merry Christmas

Christmas is one of the happiest holy days in the Christian religion. It marks the birth of the promised Messiah, the Christ child.

On December 25 we celebrate the day that God sent His only Son to open the Gates of Heaven. God, in His infinite wisdom, chose a barren cave, an animal manger in a forsaken, arid land for the Christ's arrival.

The joyousness of the season often overshadows the true meaning of this high Christian holy day. The commercialization, Santa, the lights and the trees, should not limit any of us from paying the homage due to Christ on his birthday. We should lift up our heads and our hearts to Heaven and thank God for giving us a way home from our servitude here on earth.

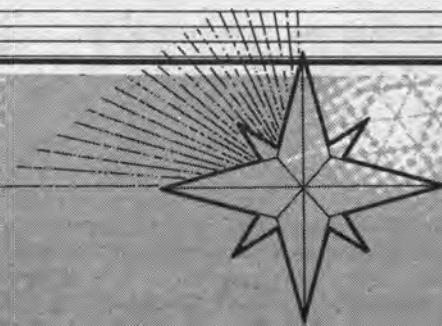
As we give our gifts to our children, our friends and our neighbors, may we remember that this is being done in His name.

This Christmas all of us should share in the special joy that peace may be forthcoming as the reigns of Godless Communism appear to be coming to an end in Eastern Europe, and even Russia. Families may be rejoined, harmony may still become reality.

As we say grace at our holiday meal, let us add a special thanks for peace we have not known in the last 40 years.

The staff here at Suffolk Life wishes all our readers and our advertisers the merriest of Christmases.

And why not?



David J. Willmott

★ Joan

★ Cancellarich

★ Francis Bee

★ Vic Prusinowski

★ Sheryl Heather ★

★ Donna Bodkin ★ Greg

★ Bodkin ★ Bill Brown ★

★ Arthur Clark ★ Kimberly

★ Johnston ★ Patricia Keane ★

★ Ed Kelley ★ Walter Lehr ★

★ Chris Lamendola ★ Harlan Okun

★ Ted Nienburg ★ Larry Pearlman

★ Stuart Pond ★ Jody Cunningham

★ Richard Safaty ★ Al Silverman ★

★ Frank Virga ★ David J. Willmott, Jr. ★

★ Michael Willmott ★ Lenore Basile ★ Patrice

★ Small ★ Barbara Lampasona ★ Frank Frolke

★ Marie Chapman ★ Walter McNeil ★ Laura

★ Frolke ★ Claire Swanik ★ Mable Brown ★ Vicki

★ DeVere ★ Phyllis Lawal ★ Donna Ponto ★ Marie

★ Prechtl ★ Cathy Varrone ★ Brenda Andres ★ Janice

★ Artandi ★ Karen Beck ★ Stephen Boscarino ★ Karen

★ Brown ★ Jeanette Figueroa ★ Eileen Gerle ★ David Hand

★ Kerry Harrison ★ Lora Holdorf ★ Michael Josefak ★ Eileen

★ Mackey ★ Kim Macomber ★ Cynthia McCarthy ★ Randy

★ McIver ★ Marilyn Minerva ★ Herbert Moller ★ Colleen Mulvey ★

★ Janet Reardon ★ Connie Renna ★ Linda Rogacki ★ Roni Schunk ★

★ Michael Spina ★ Joan Sullivan ★ Marcy Zebrowski ★ Maureen

★ Zobelein ★ Judy Collins ★ Arthur Flanagan ★ Tim Gannon ★ Jan-

★ ine Giordano ★ Donald Meyers ★ Don Moog ★ Theresa Neyland ★ R.

★ Dein Renick ★ Elizabeth Tonis ★ Greg Valero ★ Mark Woolley ★ Lou

★ Grasso ★ Sheila Andreasen ★ Trudy Ash ★ Michael Casale ★ Maddie Cyriacks

★ Stefanie Gilheany ★ Renee Hannafey ★ Ken Juliano ★ Neil McKenzie ★ Mary

★ Schroeder ★ Jean Testa ★ Barbara Long ★ Loretta Reisig ★ Cynthia Burlew ★

★ Susan Cianflone ★ John Mangarella ★ Susan Tamborella ★ Patricia Tuozzo ★ Robin

★ Beatty ★ Ted Tureski ★ Bill Lawton ★ Hugh Battersby ★ Theodore H. Cook III ★ Bob

★ Tressler ★ Michael Caporino ★ Joseph Capozzoli ★ Sherman Carter ★ Joseph Chyczewski

★ Peter Diperi ★ Richard Hille ★ Daniel Iverson ★ Rodion Iwanczuk ★ Dean Martin ★

★ Scott McNeill ★ Kim Morris ★ John Norris ★ Chuck O'Dell ★ Raymond Red Cloud Owens ★

★ Randy Sapp ★ Thomas Ward ★ Tracy Turner ★ Christian Bachmore ★ Raymond Bishop ★ John

★ Boudreau ★ Patricia Butti ★ Robert Corry ★ Mary Fitzgibbon ★ Stephanie Garverick ★ Don

★ Griffith ★ Karin

★ Leinfus ★ Ken

★ McCarthy ★

★ Barbara Niebuhr

★ Herbert Stillie

★ John McDonald

★ Duane

★ Sundquist



## Hanukkah, 1990

Hanukkah, which begins on December 21, is a holiday of happiness and pride for Jewish families, who gather to retell the story of Hanukkah and light the Hanukkah candles. Hanukkah recalls the years of struggle against oppression, and the strength of faith that survived despite many obstacles.

Hanukkah is a celebration of the triumph of Jewish people in their struggle for

freedom, with songs and praise and thanksgiving. The lighting of the Hanukkah candles recalls the "miracle of the oil" when, in 165 BC, one day's supply of oil kept the lamps of the Menorah lit for eight days.

We wish all our Jewish friends and readers a Happy Hanukkah.

And why not?



# 1990, Year of the People?

While the Tax Revolt of 1989 was the major story of the year, garbage will take over the spotlight in the coming new year. Until now, the cast of characters in this controversial drama includes the state officials, who imposed a landfill ban which goes into effect in December of 1990; the DEC, which envisions itself the all-powerful enforcer of the ban, and the town governments, which have been expected to come up with a miracle and make the garbage go away without increased costs.

If the taxpayers who raised such a ruckus and grabbed the attention of elected officials in 1989 over tax rate increases don't include themselves as players, they face a doubling of their town taxes, at the very least, to pay for the disposal of their garbage. Although the public will be mandated in the new year in many areas to become more actively involved in recycling efforts, it's going to cost a lot more tax dollars to get rid of the mounds of recycled material the towns will face.

The public anger of the tax revolt of this year will seem little more than a breeze as compared to the hurricane force winds that will blow when the public gets the bill for the grandiose plans cooked up by the state and DEC. There are no assurances that the "burn the garbage" philosophy of the DEC will escape future controls over air emissions by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. There are no guarantees that the multi-million dollar incinerators being proposed and built today will not be scrapped if and when the EPA regulations change, as they have in the past.

Those who doubt this could happen should remember that it was the very same DEC that forced towns to stop incinerating many years ago, and to begin landfilling the garbage. Then the DEC demanded liners on the bottom of the

landfills because rainwater trickling through the garbage was creating leachates which threatened the water supply in some locations. The DEC then demanded liners on top of the landfills because methane became a problem. After the towns complied with all these demands, the DEC pushed for, and was successful in having approved, the landfill ban. And yet these very same state officials complain the towns have done nothing to solve the garbage problem. Without a written guarantee that the millions they spend today for "solutions" won't be wasted as were the dollars invested in the liner schemes, why in the world should town officials waste any more taxpayer dollars?

As the clock begins ticking ever closer to the start of the landfill ban next year, the taxpayers must take an active stand. If a landfill is polluting the groundwater, close it by all means. If it isn't, keep it open until there are concrete answers, and assurances, in the garbage crisis. What is the best answer? Incineration? Composting? Using garbage as the raw material to create a product, such as ethanol? Or as a fuel to provide the heat to create the steam to turn turbines to create electricity?

Until now, public officials have gone around in circles on this and a number of other issues. On the one hand they have environmentalists pressuring for the preservation of land for the protection of water and endangered species, and on the other they have the taxpayers, also an endangered species in this county, demanding tax relief. Politicians have to put aside their zeal for headlines in creating "landmark legislation" which may sound good on paper, but causes harmful impact far beyond the benefit promised.

They must buy land to preserve water, but first they must make sure they

are buying the right lands. They must create a priority list of the most sensitive parcels, and spend the taxpayers' dollars wisely.

The public has demanded, but the politicians have ignored, that governmental spending be cut. Instead, town and county officials have imposed increased fees on dumps, construction and a host of other areas, not to lower taxes but to hide their spending habits. They boast they are "holding the line on taxes," but dig into your pocket in other ways.

1990 starts a new year, and a new decade. The people have the power to set the tone for this new future. It will be a "business as usual" future if the public does not become involved. Or, it can be a year of accomplishment far beyond the modest tax cuts that were realized as a result of the tax revolt of 1989. We're hopeful that the lesson learned in 1989, that officials do listen when enough people speak, will carry forth in the new year and decade to bring real solutions to our many problems.

And why not?

## Chasing Our Tails

Families are encouraged to move into large houses in the country. They are low-priced and taxes are not worth worrying about.

Families have kids. Rural communities grow. Taxes increase immensely. Kids are raised, they are ready to move out of the house. Taxes increase more.

Young people find the cost of new homes well beyond their reach. Legalized apartments are beyond their means. Taxes have accelerated.

Older folks find it impossible to keep the house on fixed incomes. They have big homes, they have room to build apartments for young people, offering affordable housing and providing supplemental income to offset the tax increases.

The additional people living in illegal apartments require services, more police, schools, recreation. Taxes accelerate.

Government wakes up, sees that up to one-third the homes in the community contain illegal apartments. Towns pressed for tax revenues come up with a scheme to legalize those apartments by

having them registered and made legal. Charge owners double town taxes. Taxes stabilize.

Rents go up to reflect new tax charges. Affordable housing is no longer affordable. Town officials use windfall taxes to increase size of government. Tenants move out. Owners lose home for taxes.

When a cat chases its tail, it may burn up energy and be cute to watch, but no one gets hurt.

An awful lot of people are being hurt, and more will be impacted in the future because our elected officials, in all levels of government and in school districts as well, have refused to reduce the level of taxes so there can be legalized, affordable housing. And we see no hope they will do so unless you, the people, force the issue.

We are embarking on a new decade. The choice is ours. We can continue to endure the problems of the '80s, or we can make this the decade of the people, a time when officials become responsive to the needs of the people.

And why not?

### Point of view:

## 'Let's get to the good stuff'

The following is a statement by East Hampton Town Supervisor Tony Bullock at a recent gathering of town and state officials garbage disposal crisis and the state's ban on the use of landfills, which goes into effect in January of 1990:

The solid waste crisis has already come home to roost on the East End. It is without a doubt the most challenging issue facing Long Islanders as we enter the 1990's. As elected officials, our job is to see that we do what should be done to stop the unacceptable, wasteful, and dangerous practice of landfilling garbage and initiate effective composting and recycling-based solutions to this pressing problem.

Now that I've stated what everybody knew anyway - lets get to the good stuff.

I received a letter last week from Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling. This latest piece of correspondence was singularly condescending in its tone and epitomized the unproductive and needlessly combative posture that has characterized most encounters between town governments on Long Island and the D.E.C.

Although in the past four months the Town of East Hampton has committed itself to millions of dollars worth of solid waste-related capital projects, engaged no fewer than three engineering firms to produce half a dozen or more work products in furtherance of our expected consent order with the D.E.C., purchased a \$125,000 Mack truck with over \$50,000 worth of roll-off containers, gone to bid on \$300,000 worth of methane and groundwater monitoring wells, and are currently designing composting, materials se-

paration and drop-off facilities that will cost several million dollars. Mr. Jorling reiterates Regional Director Berger's concerns about our "town's lack of progress toward comprehensive solid waste management."

Well, excuse me! Just what exactly does the D.E.C. expect of us small towns? we don't have the minions of commissioners and deputies that our Up-Island counterparts enjoy. We don't have the big budgets and the giant tax bases to absorb the kinds of costs they are asking us to bear. How easy it must be to word process dunning letters to small towns on Long Island from ivory towers in Albany and pooh-poo our genuine attempts to comply with laws and regulations that we had no part in creating. Mr. Jorling winds up with arousing finish to his letter, stating that the D.E.C. stands ready to provide technical assistance to help us "formulate and implement an effective solid waste management solution."

What a crock!

If intimidation tactics, fines, legal threats, permits that get processed like molasses, and constantly changing regulations are the D.E.C.'s definition of "technical assistance," we would really rather do without it.

What we truly need is money. I don't need sympathy from state representatives or technical assistance from state bureaucrats - the towns on eastern Long Island need money - real money to do what you are forcing us to do.

For reasons that make very little sense, town governments, instead of the county or state governments, got stuck

with the garbage problem. In most states, due to obvious benefits inherent in regionalization and economics of scale, counties are in charge of solid waste management.

By placing this responsibility on towns alone, serious economic hardship will surely come to the much-abused property taxpayer.

In summation, I would specifically request that serious consideration be given to the following proposals:

1) L.I. Regional Recycling Authority:

The state should establish a state-run recycling authority whose sole purpose is to assist municipalities in the collection and marketing of recyclables. A minimum of five massive weigh-in roll-off storage facilities should be created - one to serve Eastern Suffolk, two for Western Suffolk, and at least two for Nassau. All facilities should be accessible by rail.

By having these huge facilities, municipalities can be guaranteed to have a place to take the recyclable paper, glass, newsprint, corrugated cardboard, plastics, metals and other materials that you are asking us to collect. By centralizing these materials and developing the capability to store for long periods of time, Long Island can ride out slumps and become an effective force in the domestic and overseas recycling markets.

Funding for these facilities can come largely from tipping fees and through the revenues generated by the sale of recycled products.

SEE Page 6