

#### We Need You

The alliance of protesting taxpayers of Suffolk County needs you. You are a taxpayer. Your money is not doing the job it should. The price you are paying for government services is way out of proportion to what you are getting in return. This trend is getting worse and will not get any better unless and until you get involved in your local taxpayers organization. Your involvement in this group, whose aims are in unison with other united taxpayers, can bring about the pressure that is needed to return government to the people. It can sharply reduce the waste of your money.

We have set a goal of fifty thousand members. You should be one of them. We need you as an individual willing to give your all to this fight. This fight is yours. If we do not show a united effort NOW we will end up with taxes on our homes that cannot be met. We will end up with sales taxes that reduce our buying power to the subsistence level. We will end up with income taxes that destroy our incentive to work.

Fill out the application blank on page 4 of this week's issue and we will forward it to your local tax-payers' group. They will get in touch with you and tell you how you can best help them (and YOUR-SELF) in accomplishing the goals of the alliance of protesting taxpayers. Fight back! Don't sit back! Your future is in YOUR hands. And why not?

#### Money Hungry

This year the taxpayers of Suffolk County will spend \$60,000. in salaries for the men who represent the ten towns on the county board. This is in addition to their salaries as town supervisors. Based on the same salary rate, our cost next year, under reapportionment, is going to be \$108,000., a raise of almost 85%. We are now being fed a steady diet, via the daily press, that most county leaders feel that this is not sufficient to attract the caliber of men needed to lead Suffolk County. They are talking of raising this figure another 40% to 50% or from \$9000. to \$12,000. for these part - time positions.

To Suffolk Life such reasoning is wrong. If the county leaders feel that money is the main factor in attracting qualified people into public service, then they have become too involved in politics and have outlived their usefulness as party leaders from a public standpoint. From our earliest days, the desire to serve one's fellowmen coupled with the public recognition

for giving of oneself for the betterment of others have been the primary reasons why public spirited persons have been drawn into public service.

On the local level, we have hundreds of men and women who serve on school boards. This is one of the most trying, time - consuming and thankless jobs in public life. They receive no salary. They receive virtually no recognition. There are few avenues for patronage, and the only reward they get is a feeling of having tried to do a good job for the children and taxpayers in their communities. They are usually people who have more work and responsibility than the average person, yet they dedicate as many as forty or fifty hours per week to school business during some periods of the year.

Suffolk Life firmly believes that whether you pay \$1000., \$5000., or \$10,000. a year for serving part-time on the county board you are going to attract the same type of person. There will be those who want the job out of a desire to make this a better county, and there will be those who seek the job in the hopes of enriching themselves.

The job of running Suffolk County is going to be divided into eighteen parts instead of the ten that we are accustomed to. This means the work load is going to be cut almost in half. Why we need to pay double salaries for doing half the work is beyond our comprehension, except that it reflects the typical political logic that we are accustomed to. County administrative duties could be cut substantially if we had capable adminsitrators. Instead, politicians from the town board on up, appoint themselves heads of all meaningful committees without soliciting the voluntary services of responsible citizens within the communities who would be willing to serve on committees without fee. If our politicians would only make use of the talent that lies within their grasp their jobs could be done more efficiently and with less cost. If the politicians would only open their eyes they would find many men and women as capable and, in many cases, much more capable than our present board who would be willing to run for the new legislative posts. Of course, many of them, running out of a desire to be of public service, would not play ball with the

Cont. on page 4.

#### SUFFOLK LIFE

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#### S.W. ADVERTISING SERVICE, PUBLISHER DAVID J. WILLMOTT, EDITOR & ADV. MGR.

NANCY J. WILLMOTT, SOCIAL EDITOR SHERMAN B. CHACE, SALES MANAGER KURT BUSSE, GENERAL MANAGER JOHN McKAY, PRODUCTION MANAGER J. CORWIN & H. FRANCKE, PHOTOGRAPHERS

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# LAST DAYS of our half-yearly SALE of fine men's and women's SHOES

Foot Tree

30 JOBS LANE, SOUTHAMPTON

(Opp. Parrish Museum) . . . AT 3 - 2450

#### **EDITORIALS** From page 3

politicians and that would foul up the lucrative patronage system.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the taxpayers could have honest and efficient representation in their government? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have government that served the people instead of having people serve the government. How about trying it fellows? And why not?



Dear Mr. Willmott:

May I comment please on your editorial "The Real Culprit", January 8, 1969?

It is true that fifteen years ago a teacher's starting salary was hardly a fit one at \$2,000 per year. But you are not telling the entire truth when you state average salaries are now \$11,000 to \$13,000. Indeed, \$8,000 is a more realistic figure. Your figures are average maximum salaries.

True, too, a teacher puts in 5½ class hours a day, but never spends less than 6½ to 8 hours a day in school and then an additional three on school work at home.

Teachers receive half - pay on sabbatical leaves and usually after seven full years of teaching, not three.

As for their three month vacations, Mr. Willmott, if you were more careful with your investigation, you would have found, that most men who teach, must work during that time,

Cont, on page 8

### Join Your Local Taxpayers' Group!!!

Name		
Street		
Town	Phon	e
I WILL WORK AS:		
1) Organizer	2) Area Leader	3) Worker
I HAVE TALENTS IN:		
1) Legal Field	2) Publicity	3) Secretary
5) Fund Raising	6) Accounting	7) Other

Membership is open to anyone who pays taxes of any type. The only qualification for membership is that the applicant be dedicated to the principles of sound fiscal management in all government spending and a willingness to become involved in making this a reality.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Send to : Taxpayers % SUFFOLK LIFE, Montauk Hwy. Westhampton , N.Y. 11977



#### **Taxpayers Progressing**

Many new taxpayer groups have been formed in the past four weeks and many more will be started in the next few weeks. People are coming from all walks of life to join and to do something besides complain about what has happened to their income.

You, too, can now join a taxpayer group or start one in your community. The Federation of Taxpayer Organizations will be glad to lend you a hand in starting a local group. Call 325 - 0708 for details.

A meeting of the leaders of the various taxpayer groups will be held at the Polish Hall in Riverhead on Tuesday, February 18th at 7:30 p.m. All taxpayer and civic associations are invited and encouraged to send a representative to this important organizational meeting. It is hoped that the Federation of Taxpayer Organizations will be able to act as a united voice for all independent groups and provide leadership, coordination and a central information point for all these groups.

A united front is needed, We must concentrate our efforts in hopes that we may turn the tide and bring the tax burden into line with our income. And why not?

#### The Body's Not Dead

Shades of what's to come have already popped into the headlines. The great planner and the western Suffolk supervisors are already making arrangements to transfer the meeting place of the county board to Hauppauge, in January 1970, when the reapportioned board takes over. Under reapportionment, the five eastern towns of Suffolk County will have only two votes out of the eighteen on the county board.

Since the early days of Suffolk the board has always met in Riverhead, a half - way point in the county. It has been just about as easy to come to the meetings from Montauk or Babylon, Huntington or Orient. Now, under reapportionment, the west will begin its rape of the east by moving the Board of Supervisors to the west end. This is just the start of things to come.

Fairness, ethics and tradition will go out the window this coming November. The five east end towns combined will not even have a respectable minority voice on the new board. The members from this area will only receive polite attention on decisions and policy affecting our lives out here.

Of course, the only solution to this problem is for the east end to break with the west end and form a new county. The chances of this being accomplished look pretty dim at present. This past week we again discussed the matter with our assemblyman from this district, Speaker of the Assembly, Perry Duryea. He reiterated the constitutional population requirement which, under the 1960 census, we do not have. It is believed by many, however, that we can fulfill the population requirement. Mr. Duryea claimed that even if he could get the bill out of committee and passed that Governor Rockefeller would veto it because it might be unconstitutional. Even if this is so we would like to see every effort made to get this bill passed and to the governor Ithus keeping it alive. Where there is life there is hope.

There is also a possibility of getting a special census taken here in the five eastern towns that would prove we do have the necessary population to meet the constitutional requirement. Cost is the big determining factor at present, but we have an idea of a way to get this done with little or no cost if the legalities can be cleared.

It seems a darn shame that the people of this area, who have spoken out so strongly in favor of separating, be denied their right to the form of government of their choice. You would think that we are no longer a part of the great American tradition. As long as there is still a flicker of hope we have a feeling that there is still some of the Paul Revere and Company blood flowing out here. A way may be found to form Peconic County yet. And why not?

#### **Big Boat Show Planned**

On March 7th, 8th and 9th, Suffolk Life will sponsor the biggest boat show ever held on eastern Long Island. This show will feature almost every small boat that you will find navigating our numerous waterways. There will be many exhibits of marine equipment and accessories.

The show will be held in the New York State armory on Route 58 in Riverhead. The large, well-lit drill hall will provide space for displays of small and

Cont, on page 4

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NOW THRU THE ENTIRE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Choose From...

Hundreds of bolts of fashionable, up - to - date Fabrics from reputable Mills . . . usually priced up to \$3.98 a yard — ALL YOU PAY NOW IS JUST . .

\$ 125

HERE IS ANOTHER EXCITING OFFER..

WENDY'S will cover to your order a SOFA and CHAIRS... For just... even if you live 50 miles away; Price includes - fabric and labor.

\$90

Remember - this 'miracle' happens just once a year only,

WENDY FABRIC SHOP

RIVERHEAD SHOPPING PLAZA

RTE. 58 727-3525

#### **EDITORIALS** From page 3

large boats while the side rooms, off the main floor, will feature related displays of marine products and service firms. All exhibits will be manned by competent personnel from your local boat dealers plus many manufacturers representatives will be available to answer your questions.

The Suffolk Life Boat Show promises to be the best ever held on the east end. Mark those dates on your calendar – March 7, 8 and 9. You won't want to miss the fun or the opportunity of comparing products and finding your dream boat for next summer. And why not?



Dear Sir:

My heartiest good wishes for the success of your taxpayers organization.

This movement has been long over due and it will go far to counteract taxation without representation for which our forefathers fought.

The effort to put so great a power, as the power to tax, back in discreet hands has been too long in coming.

Taxpayers have been taken for granted as a group, belittled, held in contempt, and their feelings willfully disregarded by those who tax.

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#### Suffolk Life Boat Show March 7, 8, & 9

Whether or not you were able to attend the National Boat Show at the Coliseum in Manhattan or the event in Hempstead, mark the above dates on your calendar and set sail for the Suffolk Life Boat Show at the Riverhead Armory, Rte. No. 58, Riverhead.

No effort has been spared to make this show the most successful one ever held on eastern Long Island. Dealers from all over Suffolk County will be participating and putting their best foot forward to acquaint you with the latest in boats and marine gadgetry.

As enthusiasm and interest in the first annual Suffolk Life Boat Show gathers momentum we have had numerous calls from many of our readers wanting to know the hours that the show will be open to the public, Beginning on Friday, March 7th at 10:00 AM, with the bos'n's piping the first spectators aboard, the show will run til 11:00 PM. It will open from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM on Saturday and from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday, March 9th which is the final day.

Come early, bring your friends and see the sights. We'll see you there! And why not?

#### CAN WE AFFORD IT?

Voters of Central School District No. 2 are being asked to support the construction of a nine and one half million dollar senior high school which is to be built on property already purchased by the school board and located behind the present senior and junior high school complex.

According to projected figures, released by the school board, the point is fast being reached where we will need to educate more students than the present facilities will be able to accomodate under the present system of education. If the voters choose to make do with the existing facilities, they will have to be renovated to meet the needs of today's more sophisticated curriculum.

\$9,500,000.00 is a lot of money. This is for estimated construction alone. It does not mention the millions of dollars a year it will cost to provide teachers, administrative and maintenance personnel to run this school. We requested these figures from the school administration last December and were promised them within one week. As we write this editorial Tuesday, Feb. 12th, they still have not been produced. It is estimated that the bonded indebtedness will increase taxes on an average of about 10%. This figure, of course, does not include the additional costs that will be necessary for running and maintaining the school. We can only presume that these costs will

only add substantially to an already heavy tax increase.

Having looked over the plans for the new school quite thoroughly, it is apparent to us that absolutely no expense has been spared to make this the most luxurious facility in all of eastern Long Island. At a time when the taxpayers have reached the limit of their ability and desire to pay more taxes, we would be amazed if they would approve this facility that has so many frills. It is estimated that school building costs run around \$25.00 a square foot compared to \$15 to \$17 for home construction and \$9 to \$14 for industrial plant construction. Aware of these costs, the designers of this proposed facility have still included a tremendous amount of space designated for administrative offices, special rooms, auditoriums, gyms and additional non - teaching areas. Registered voters of District No. 2 have all received brochures about the proposed school. We urge them to look the floor plans over very carefully before voting.

There are alternatives to passing this plan. The school board could come back with a trimmed down plan eliminating many of the frills and non - productive space. It could do much to make more productive use of existing facilities by eliminating some of the elective courses that are unnecessary in preparing a student for the future. It could initiate a double session and trisemester system of education. In short many things could be done in the interests of economy and the taxpayers' pocketbooks without sacrificing quality of education, and many things should be done before we are committed to spending \$9,500,000.00 which, we repeat, is a terrific amount of money.

As citizens, parents and taxpayers we would all agree that our children deserve the best education that we can afford to give them. They deserve sound and adequate facilities in which to learn. But before we go and build edifices that will have the taxpayers panting, we, at least, should demand that existing facilities be utilized to their maximum.

Suffolk Life does not support this new school building proposition. We believe that the taxpayer can no longer continue to support an archaic educational system that holds our pocketbooks in contempt. Let them show us economy; let them bend their efforts

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#### UFFOLK

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#### Choose From...

Hundreds of bolts of fashionable, up - to - date Fabrics from reputable Mills . . . usually priced up to \$3,98 a yard — ALL YOU PAY NOW IS JUST . . \$ 725

#### HERE IS ANOTHER EXCITING OFFER..

WENDY'S will cover to your order a SOFA and CHAIRS . . . For just . . Price includes — fabric and labor 90

EVEN IF YOU LIVE 50 MILES AWAY

Remember — this 'miracle' happens just once a year only.

#### **WENDY FABRIC SHOP**

RIVERHEAD SHOPPING PLAZA

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#### **EDITORIALS** From page 3

to making full use of existing facilities before asking us to shell out more money. We can no longer afford the luxury of grandiose expansion projects that threaten to become inadequate before the next decade is out.

It is up to the individual to determine whether or not he can afford his share of this \$9,500,000.00 school. If he can, vote YES. If not, vote NO. And why not?

#### PASS IT

Ten days ago we met with Speaker Duryea concerning our open letter to him on the matter of splitting Suffolk County. Once again he brought up the arguments against splitting the county on constitutional grounds. He documented his arguments with reams of paper containing the opinions of various people in government.

After wading through all of this material we found that his whole argument is based on the requirement that, for the creation of a new county, there must be sufficient population to warrant the selection of an assemblyman from within the county boundaries. At present, using the formula prescribed by the constitution, Peconic County would not have the required number of inhabitants to fulfill the constitutional requirement. In all of these opinions, presented by Mr. Duryea, however, we failed to find a single court case

whose outcome would substantiate his argument under present court rulings. The same court rulings by which the Suffolk County Board of Supervisors will have to operate on a one-man, one-vote principle. The U.S. Supreme Court has told us that representation by geographic area is unconstitutional. Should not this ruling also pertain to the creation of an assembly district? If it is unconstitutional for a supervisor to represent a town on a county board, how can it be constitutional for an assemblyman to represent a county in the legislature? Should not the validity of an assembly district also be determined by population? This is the case upstate where Hamilton County votes with Fulton County to elect an assemblyman.

We feel that the constitutionality, or lack of it, for Peconic County's existence should be settled in the courts. The only way to get it into the courts is for Mr. Duryea to get the bill out of committee and onto the floor of the assembly and to work for its passage. If and when it is passed, and we are confident that Mr.Duryea can accomplish this, it must go to Governor Rockefeller for signing. If the governor refuses to sign the bill let the taxpayers bring suit and let the courts decide what is valid and what is not.

Mr. Duryea's constituents have voted overwhelmingly to separate into a new county. Many voted for Mr. Duryea because they felt he was the only man who could assure the passage of this bill. They want Mr. Duryea to pass this bill now.

It is the opinion of this paper that Mr. Duryea should forget his personal opinions and feelings about the creation of Peconic County and labor hard for its creation. By getting this bill passed he will be doing what the residents of the first assembly district want. He has a solemn obligation to fulfill the wishes of his constituents insofar as he is able, and we are waiting expectantly and impatiently.

Let Mr. Duryea do his utmost for the creation of Peconic County and we will happily let the courts decide its ultimate outcome. Let the courts decide on the constitutionality of Peconic County. Let none of us, through inaction, prejudice the outcome of this totally vital issue. A postcard to Hon. Perry B. Duryea, Jr., Assembly Chambers, The Capitol, Albany, N. Y. 12224, mailed by every voter in the first assembly district, will show Mr. Duryea that we intend to see that this bill is passed. What do you say, Mr. Duryea? And why not?

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Enclosed please find a check for \$2 for Suffolk Life. I have been remiss in not subscribing sooner, but with so many details to attend to these days it is easy to be forgetful.

Your editorials show great courage as far as I am concerned, greater courage than any newspaper in Suffolk County. Your batting average is very high.

Thanks very much. Wishing you and your paper all the success in the world.

Cordially, Charles S. Witherspoon



#### **Revolt Against Apathy**

The taxpayers rebellion is growing. More than a rebellion, it is a revolt against apathy. Taxpayers and voters have come to the realization that big government, and the cost of running it, are the direct result of their disinterest over the years. They have come to the realization that by giving up their responsibilities as citizens and letting someone else "do it", the cost to themselves has soared to fantastic new highs. They have come to the conclusion that the only way they are going to correct the situation is to dig in and become involved in what the politicians are doing.

Governmental policy, the selection of political nominees, the eventual election of candidates and the control of the power that they wield are, at present, powers that rest in the hands of a few. These are the power brokers. They are an accident of the democratic system. Under our system of government the people, all of them, were intended to control government. The people would belong to political parties of their choice, they would set policy that the party would follow, and they would nominate party members to run for political office against candidates of the opposing parties. This is the system that our forefathers set up to insure that the people would retain control of their government. Unfortunately this has not worked out. They did not count on the American people becoming lazy and apathetic. They could plainly see that men had been willing (even eager) to fight for simple, basic principles and to make any sacrifice and endure any hardship in order to win their independence. They could not easily foretell how easily men would give up their right of determination by being lazy, apathetic and ignorant of the system that they had fought so hard to set up.

What has happened is that too many Americans ignore government at its very grass roots, which is the one level on which they can exercise direct control. We are speaking of the local political committee and the selection of the men who sit on it. Primaries are run each year to select committeemen from each election district in the town and in the county. All parties run primaries, but here on eastern Long Island, and pretty much throughout the state, candidates who run in primaries run unopposed. These candidates are hand - picked by the leader and a few of his cronies who run the party. Needless to say, they pick people who they know will go along with their will - people they have given jobs to, promised jobs to or people who have received patronage in its various forms. These people will not rock the boat out of fear and loyalty. Thus the committee goes along with the leadership, and a few men control all policy, all selection of candidates and the successful nominee's power of office.

This in itself is bad enough but, when coupled with the fact that in Suffolk County as well as other areas of the state, there is an almost total domination by one party, we can see that our county is almost a dictatorship controlled by a few ruling individuals. The end result is the picking of the publics' pockets, We have seen this throughout Suffolk County. We are not talking only of the corruption reported by the daily newspapers but of the squandering of our hard earned tax dollars. We are talking of the ridiculous cost of running the government, the immoral giveaway of funds, the wasted and wasteful jobs, the wasted use of cars and equipment, the padding of budgets, the patronage that is given out to lawyers, insurance agents, printers, newspapers, contractors, builders and so on ad infinitum. They all have their finger in the pie that YOU are paying for. They are all getting their cut. All of this patronage has caused your tax bill to skyrocket - this and the need to insure victory at the polls by buying the margin to votes necessary to succeed.

These are the realities of political life. They will continue in the future unless we take back control of the parties. We cannot do this by sitting back and complaining about how bad things are getting. We, and this means all of us, are going to have to go out and fight to get committeemen elected from each and every one of our districts who will represent our wishes.

Most people do not even have the vaguest idea who their committeemen are. These men are supposed to be representing you and your wishes. If they do not seek out your opinion, it is impossible for them to represent you in committee. Thus they are derelict in their duty to you and must be replaced. They must be replaced by citizens who are seeking nothing but good, honest economical government; not jobs, not favors nor patronage. They must be people who care enough about government to work for its betterment.

It is relatively easy to get your name on the ballot or the name of someone who will represent your aims

Cont. on page 4

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We Pay All Sales Taxes!
SAVE 4% SALES TAX

By Buying Before FRIDAY 9 P.M.

Save 2% Nassau - Suffolk Sales tax, and we will pay the 2% N. Y. State Sales Tax for all purchases made before Fri. 9PM.

FINAL FEBRUARY CLEARANCE SALE STOREWIDE INCLUDING WAREHOUSE SAVE 20% TO 50% ON FURNITURE

Berison Furniture Co.

319 EAST MAIN STREET

RIVERHEAD Free Delivery PA7-4580

Credit Terms

**EDITORIAL** From page 3

within the political party of your choice. All that is needed is a petition with the names of twenty - five registered voters of your party. This is submitted to the Board of Elections, and now you have a contest. Can individuals win against the entrenched machine? The answer is a resounding yes. Just look at what the McCarthy people accomplished in the Democratic primaries last year. They made tremendous headway in getting their people into office and getting their views known and felt.

Political activism is one area in which the newly formed Federation of Taxpayer Organizations intends to take action.

We hope that the various groups will help people within their respective communities to run for committee posts. Where existing committeemen are derelict in their duties, or fail to represent the wishes of the people of their district, they must be replaced. Only when our citizens are once again in control of government through politics will we have government returned to the people.

Only then can we hope to harness our runaway taxes and the spiraling cost of government. This is going to take the involvement of every resident of our county; it is not a job that we can let our friends and neighbors take care of. If you've got complaints, get involved right up to your neck. It will be well worth it. And why not?



Dear Mr. Willmott:

Certainly in a wonderfully resourceful country, such as ours, there is almost no need of welfare. Certainly not for "Instant Welfare."

Many stories, perhaps not verified, have been related by those trying to obtain workers and the efforts of "Why should we work, we can make as much or more on welfare?" Let these welfare recipients be made to work when physically able.

It was my privilege to care for a dying husband during my pregnancy and then bring up my boy prior to my remarriage and, at that time, no one thought I was doing anything out of the ordinary or other than I should be doing including myself. Our forefathers proved in the early history of this country that hard work and willingness to perform were necessary and made of America a great and admired country.

Let us not fool ourselves, too much is being done to make people reliant on others rather than self - supporting and this includes our school system - busing children - when we had to walk about two miles in all weather, closing schools for small storms and so forth.

It is true for an awakening perhaps, but not necessarily too late. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Mrs. Elizabeth E. Thompson

Dear M. Willmott:

By a unanimous vote of the members present at our January 10th meeting I have been directed to write to you, commending you on your recent editorials of Nov. 20th, Dec. 11th, Dec. 18th and Jan. 8th. Long Island and Suffolk County in particular needs more voices like yours if we are to stay in existence.

We imagine it would make very interesting reading if a survey could be made of all the people, senior citizens and younger citizens alike, as to why they are moving out of New York State, or even contemplating the moving out of this state.

Yaphank is only a small rural community and part of one of the largest school districts on Long Island. We have no sidewalks, sanitation district, water authority, sewers, etc. We also enjoy hundreds of acres of county owned, tax exempt, land within our boundaries, plus the beautiful (?) Long Island Expressway. One can only imagine what our taxes will be when we are blessed with the above mentioned benefits.

We would like to humbly suggest that all of your readers cut out and mail copies of your editorials to their respective congressmen, councilmen, etc.

If we can be of any assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to call upon us. In the meantime, keep up the good work and thanks again.

Very truly yours, Secretary Yaphank Chamber of Commerce

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I would be very happy to join a group that could help relieve the tax burden in some way. Our county could be great except that we are forcing more and more people and industires out because of the excessive taxes that we are being forced to pay.

I would like very much to see a group large enough, not only

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