

# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## It Could Be Yours

Located to the north of Montauk Highway in East Moriches is a camp called Pa-Qua-Tuck. It is a very special, rare place, not because of the facilities which are rustic, but because of the love that is spread over the acres.

Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck is run by the small Moriches Rotary Club. The camp is the only bright light many retarded and physically handicapped children will ever see in their lifetime.

The camp is going to celebrate its 30th year of operation this coming summer. It is hard to put words what happens here. You almost have to see it first-hand. Kids who are withdrawn, who never smile, or even have the ability to acknowledge they are alive, after spending time here will look up at the camp's director Dave Rogers with a smile or even speak a word that no one has ever heard them utter before.

The camp is based on the principles of self-help, love and understanding. Young men and women from the area work six days a week, twenty-four hours a day for a weekly salary in the area of \$30. Their duties not only include normal counseling operations, but sometimes even changing diapers the size of a bed sheet on a young person who is incontinent.

The vacationers are taught, and expected,

whenever possible, to help each other. One of the most emotional moments I have ever experienced in my life was watching a retarded boy who was blind, but had use of his limbs, pushing a girl in a wheelchair who was a Cerebral Palsy victim, but had eyesight, up a hill from the lake. What expressions of happiness and fulfillment on their faces!

The Moriches Rotary Club's hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and fund raising have kept the

## 200 Mile Limit Closer

U.S. Senate followed Congress's example and this past week, passed a bill to extend our jurisdiction over fishing grounds to 200 miles outside the land-limits of the United States.

Once in opposition, President Ford has changed his mind and now says he will sign the bill as long as the effective date is July 1977. The Defense Department and the State Department still oppose this legislation.

The bill will now go back for a compromise between the House and the Senate. The House bill calls for the legislation to take effect immediately. The Senate's bill has the amendment which Ford insisted upon before he will sign it, bringing the effective date to July 1977. Ford maintains this time is needed for additional U.N. Law of the Sea negotiations with those very

camp going and growing for over 30 years. The camp is also aided by some donations from the outside. But it is running on a very, very limited budget, and this year, because of inflation and other difficulties they are appealing for help from the public.

We cannot think of a better cause where every penny is utilized for the people it is dedicated to serve. But for fate, luck or a power stronger than yourself, you might have a child whose visit to this camp would be his most enriching experience. Because we have been blessed with normal children, we will not have to call on them ourselves. But we can help those who have not been as fortunate, send a donation of any size. Your tax-free donation may be sent to the Moriches Rotary Club, Center Moriches, New York. Try to do what you can. And why not?

countries who have raped our waters. Needless to say, we disagree wholeheartedly.

We hope the House will force the enactment of this bill at a much sooner date, preferably before the fall '76 run of fish begins. We cannot see giving foreign fishing interests one more year to take everything their nets can haul and this is what they will do.

At present there are some efforts being made to avoid taking fish which had almost reached extinction. If the foreign fishing interests know they are not getting a crack at these fish because of the 200 mile limitation they will have no qualms about taking even those. We encourage you, once again, to write to President Ford, to your senator and your congressmen about this bill. And why not?..

## Airport Security Questioned

Recently I flew to Washington, D.C. At Islip MacArthur airport, security was professional and extremely thorough. Passengers were required to remove any metal objects they had in their possession and walk through an electronic device so sensitive it picked up the foil on my cigarette pack.

I felt good to know everything possible had been done to avoid a sky-jacking. A fellow passenger sitting next to me complained about the elaborate security system and the hassle of the whole process. I told him I would much prefer to personally go through the hassle and feel sure I wasn't going on an unscheduled trip to Cuba because some nut wanted to protest the cut-back of birdseed for chickadees or some other looney reason. He agreed.

On the return flight from Washington National Airport to MacArthur, I experienced just the opposite in security procedures. At the check-in counter the clerk announced the airline ticket only included transportation of three items. Because I had four items, I said I would carry them in a knapsack I had with me. Security at Washington National also included an electronic x-ray device for carry-on items, and, I suppose, an electronic sensor to detect if you had any metal in your possession.

As it turned out, in the pocket of my ski jacket, I had a loaded 12 gauge shotgun shell that had not been removed from a prior hunting trip. This was not detected, nor discovered by me until I reached home. In the bottom of the knapsack were fishing pliers whose metal content and weight would approximate a 'Saturday night special'; I also found an 8" fishing knife that could be used as a lethal weapon, plus additional assorted metal objects, all of which went undetected.

The security people at Washington National seemed to be lackadaisical in their approach, particularly when compared to the

professionalism at MacArthur. This is especially strange considering Washington National is located in the city of our federal government.

I do not think I will have a secure, comfortable feeling again on boarding an airplane knowing I personally have passed through an inspection carrying material aboard a plane that could

have been used, if in a different form, for a hijacking or other horrendous act.

I don't like the hassle of having my bags inspected and emptying my pockets, but I much prefer this to having a plane hi-jacked and peoples' lives placed in jeopardy. Most Americans agree and want this security continued. And why not?

## So What Else Is New?

Assemblyman Perry Duryea seemed appalled when LILCO announced it plans to sell off the Island part of the surplus electricity that would be generated by the proposed Jamesport power plant.

Five years ago, during an interview with Duryea, we outlined to him a plan that had been given to us of the 15 to 18 nuclear power plants that utility companies were planning to build on or about Long Island Sound.

We voiced our concern to Duryea at this time about the safety of these units and whether they would be economically and ecologically compatible with the rest of the Island.

We attempted to generate some concern on Duryea's behalf to investigate the possibility of this becoming a reality. This was prior to the creation of the New York State Power Site Authority which now has the right to come in and place a generating plant in a community regardless of the desires and the wishes of the people of that community.

The Authority, as in the case of the Jamesport plant, is able to totally ignore the community's Master Plan, their zoning, and the quality of life they have chosen for themselves.


Duryea is partially responsible because the creation of the New York State Power Site Authority took place when he was Assembly Majority Leader. He knew the creation of the

many generating sites in his district as well as on the rest of Long Island and Connecticut would produce far more electricity than Long Island could ever use.

We find his last minute band-standing on the LILCO a bit hypocritical. And why not?

**SUFFOLK LIFE**  
NEWSPAPERS

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466  
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N. Y. 11901  
Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of



**173,000**  
Weekly

Published weekly, except last week of year, in 13 market area editions.

North Fork	Mastic/Moriches	Coram/Middle Island
South Fork	Patchogue	Selden/Centerchurch
Riverhead	Medford/Holbrook	3 Village/Port Jefferson
Hampton West	Sayville	Rocky Point
	Ronkonkoma	

Suffolk County Life is  
An Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip, Town of Riverhead,  
Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager	Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
Maxine Holmes - Production Director	Sal DeFontes - Sales Manager
Darlene Albin - Advertising Art Director	Rick Brand - News Editor
Bill Johnson - Circulation Director	

Subscription Rate:  
In Suffolk County ..... \$5.00 per year  
Outside Suffolk County ..... \$7.00 per year  
Newsstand single copy sales ..... 25¢ per issue

.....

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.  
NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.  
ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Closing Suffolk's Airport

We do not know whether to jump for joy or cry with sorrow at John Klein's suggestion to close Suffolk County Airport. The County took over the operations of the base when the Air Force vacated these facilities in the late 60's. A potential gold mine, residents could have reaped the harvest in jobs, business opportunities and community development. As usual, the County studied the utilization of the base to death, it came up with grandiose schemes for expanding and enlarging the facility. There was talk of making the air base a full-fledged jet-port, and some even suggested an international jet port. These ideas frightened the placid community that had co-existed with the Air Force. This caused an eruption of public resentment and brought the whole project to an expensive standstill.

Keeping the base open has cost the county over \$1,000,000 per year. While they were spending our money, the county, in all its wisdom, let the facility deteriorate and obstinately refused to let the facilities be used for any meaningful projects.

We drive past the airport quite frequently and are appalled at the sight of the buildings falling to ruin. The complex included not only large structures but a series of smaller buildings that could have been rented out at a very modest price to new or expanding businesses. This could have helped the unemployment situation in the county and generated real worth for the base.

It had even been suggested the base be turned into a County Welfare Center. It could be self-contained and run at a fraction of the cost the present welfare system demands. On base property there was housing for thousands of

people, a school, a medical center, theater, and communal dining facilities.

The land surrounding the base could have been leased out to industries, creating jobs for all who wanted them. The state and federal government have man-power training programs and could have been convinced to come into this operation to retrain people who are without skills to perform the functions that were needed by these industries.

This is not an original proposition, it is similar to what was done in Presque Isle, Maine when their air base, of approximately the same size, was closed at the same time the Suffolk County Air Force Base was deactivated.

Suffolk politicians obviously did not possess the yankee ingenuity of our Maine cousins. The Westhampton base instead became a political football. It has been kicked back and forth and has become the albatross around the taxpayers' neck. The only bright spot in this whole picture was the utilization of the facilities by the Air National Guard and B.O.C.E.S. which have at least not let their areas of base property go to ruin.

Klein's announcement about the base closing, is his admission of defeat. Even though County Executive, he does not have the ability to take a superb opportunity and turn it into a gold mine. This admission at least shows some common sense for it will be far better for the County to stop wasting \$1,000,000 of our tax money, in futile attempts to save face. Someday, somebody with ability and imagination will be running our County and will utilize this property for the residents' best advantage. And why not?

## Dooley's Legal Right

Eugene Dooley, the new town clerk of Brookhaven Town announced this past week he is following up a suggestion made by Suffolk Life last fall. He will put legal notices in 'people language', or plain English.

Legal Notices are an abomination at present. They appear, allegedly, to give the public information on their government and happenings that will affect their lives. Legal Notices are supposed to reach the maximum number of people.

Instead, Legal Notices are a vehicle for political patronage. They often appear in publications of very limited circulation or readership. These publications are politically loyal to those in power. When the public is able to get a hold of a publication where these ads do appear, they are printed in legal jargon. It seems planned to both confuse and bore the reader.

Dooley proposed to print a summation of these legal notices in 'people language', language that all of us can understand. This is the first positive step we have seen taken by any public official on this issue.

There are many other aspects of legal ads that

should be changed, but these must be changed by the state legislature. This will be opposed vehemently by the majority of the newspaper publishers in the state and their trade organization, the New York State Press Association. We are in the newspaper advertising business. As a newspaper publisher we are probably cutting our own throat. But, how can you condone abuse in your own field, then condemn others for ripping off the taxpayer.

The purpose of legal ads is to get the message out to the maximum number of people at the lowest cost and in the most readable form. It is not the purpose of legal ads to buy the support of a newspaper. Legal advertising is paid for out of taxpayers' money and these taxpayers have an undeniable right to get their money's worth.

We wish other newspapers would join us in campaigning for reform to eliminate abuses in legal advertising. Refusal to correct these abuses is an acceptance of a corruptible system, which eats away at the very soul of a newspaper, the essence of free speech. Speech is not free if someone is being paid for what they say or don't say. And why not?

## Learning To Understand Our Frustration

It is with a bit of amusement we noted Congressman Otis Pike's utter frustration dealing with his own kind. Pike, for the last six months has been the head of a Congressional Committee investigating C.I.A. activities.

We think he has done a super job. The hearing got to the heart of the material. He met the enemy in the White House and they refused to cooperate. He overcame this obstacle, but while preparing a report for Congress and the people of the United States, someone leaked the contents of this report.

The White House is furious and has demanded the report be either censored or kept confidential from the American public. The White House outmaneuvered Pike. By a vote taken on the floor of the House, Pike will be muzzled and will be kept from releasing this report to the people of this country.

As we watched Pike on T.V. and read in the press of his frustrations, we could not help but be amused. We have had discussions with the Congressman about the ills of big government and how unresponsive it is to the people. Pike had always been on the other side of the fence. Now, here he was in his own arena, a sixteen year veteran of the game, as frustrated as we have been in dealing with our government.


We hope Pike looks back on some of his own votes and actions which helped to contribute to the insulation of our government from the people. These reflections might give Pike's career a new direction and meaning. It might propel Pike to step into a position of leadership to help guide this country out of the trap it is now in.

Pike made a comment to us about the Watergate mess two years ago when we were interviewing him before the Congressional Elections. He said, "we didn't realize how close we came to a dictatorship." Having harbored this thought, and having been through the C.I.A. hearings, Pike just might be ready to lead the fight to return our government to the people. Pike is in the best position to tell us, and maybe he will. And why not?

### SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4468  
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N. Y. 11901  
Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of


173,000  
Weekly

Published weekly, except last week of year, in 13 market area editions.

North Fork	Mastic/Moriches	Coram/Middle Island
South Fork	Patchogue	Selden/Cantarauch
Riverhead	Medford/Holtbrook	3 Village/Port Jefferson
Hampton West	Sayville	Rocky Point
	Ronkonoma	

Suffolk County Life is  
An Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip, Town of Riverhead,  
Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

**David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher**

John McKay - General Manager	Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
Maxine Holmes - Production Director	Sei DeFarias - Sales Manager
Darlene Albin - Advertising Art Director	Rick Braud - News Editor
	Bill Johnson - Circulation Director

Subscription Rate: ..... \$5.00 per year  
In Suffolk County ..... \$7.00 per year  
Outside Suffolk County ..... \$7.00 per year  
Newstand single copy sales ..... 25¢ per issue

\*\*\*\*\*

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regarding of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume. NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason. ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

# Yellow Journalism

We are not a great Gerald Ford backer, but we support the office that Ford holds, the Presidency of the United States.

Last Monday night on the eleven o'clock news wrap-up, Channel 4, NBC, made a mockery of the President, of the office he holds, of the black race and the fourth estate.

Leading up to this news broadcast were intermittent headlines of a report on the President's health, including his drinking habits. Just prior to this report, NBC gave a short announcement and showed a picture of a harrowed Nixon during the last days he was in office. It quoted Nixon as saying he could go into his office, press a button and 70,000,000 people would be dead. NBC then came on with an excerpt issued about the President Ford's health and stated that the President consumed two to four of alcohol in an evening.

NBC then did an "on-the-spot test" which we found absolutely offensive. It had a black news announcer go to a bar and consume 4 oz. of liquor. According to the announcer's testimony, he was getting a "buzz" on. During this, viewers watched the man go from a semi-serious announcer to a laughing fool. It was hard to tell how much was alcohol's effect and how much was showmanship.

In this so-called test, NBC practiced pure, unadulterated, yellow journalism.

The report issued by the White House on Ford's habits said the President consumed two to four ounces of liquor during an "evening." One would presume that "evening" means from 5 pm to probably 11 or midnight, a period of six hours. The report did not state what kind of liquor the President consumed.

In the so-called test NBC performed, the man drank Tanqueray Gin, which is 100 proof. It was consumed straight, diluted only by ice-cubes. The announcer drank the liquor in 45 minutes, not over an "evening" as the President says he drinks. It has been proven scientifically the body and the mind can absorb one ounce of alcohol per hour without having an adverse effect. If this liquor is taken in a diluted form it will have somewhat less of an effect. In addition, the size of the person consuming the alcohol is also relevant to the alcohol's effect. The announcer who took part in this test appeared to us to be close to six inches shorter than the President.

The test was not fair, right, or just. The image it was intended to create is an image of the President of the United States as a drunken idiot who, in an alcohol induced stupor, would stagger into his office, press a button and kill 70,000,000 people.

NBC disgraced itself by its attempt at blatant character assassination. In addition, by using a black man as its token drunk, it has additionally offended the black community.

We saw nothing humorous, educational, factual or enlightening about this poor excuse for journalism.

NBC has a right to say and to show what it wants, it is granted this right under the first amendment, and we fight for this right. However, it does have an absolute responsibility to use the medium constructively, fairly, and honestly and not as a weapon to destroy a man even if it disagrees with his politics.

If NBC refuses to accept this responsibility, it must then also accept the public's chastisement for acting as a reckless, radical, political medium that does not deserve the public's confidence. We believe that NBC has a moral obligation to apologize for this totally unscrupulous and unethical report. And why not?

# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## And In The Land Of Suffern

It has been some time since we looked in at the all too true fantasy land of Suffern. We thought it would be a good idea to bring you up to date. King John's shell game has worked well. He

confused the people and they returned him to office last November. Still basking in the glow of his triumph, King John is not one to let his tricks get rusty. He now has perfected a new act with his able assistant, Queen Mary.

You see, dear brethren, in the land of Suffern, King John's shell game, played with the people at last year's budget time, is coming back to haunt him. That mysterious \$3,000,000 surplus has disappeared in a cloud of smoke. King John has been strangely silent concerning its whereabouts. He is now telling all who will listen that instead of a surplus in this year of no election, he will have a deficit of some \$10,000,000. But, being the renowned master of trickery he is, he has ordered all who answer to him to cut-back on their spending, so there will be no deficit this coming year.

Before we throw bouquets at his feet, we must look at this new trick he has performed. Queen Mary runs his health department and King John has decreed that she should cut back her budget by \$1,500,000. Presto! Queen Mary obliges him. Zippo! Queen Mary then imposes a \$1,500,000 tax in the form of fees on the peons she is supposed to serve.

What a glorious, wonderful trick. King John has cut a \$1,500,000 chunk off his expenses. Queen Mary did it for him. You see it right there in black and white, but like most sleight-of-hand tricks, when John was cutting \$1,500,000 from Queen Mary's budget, Queen Mary was taking \$1,500,000 or more out of your other pocket.

Oh! What a wonderful land we have here in Suffern. Every day is fun and games with tricks galore! Why aren't the peons laughing? And why not?



"WACO SIX EIGHT X-RAY TO TOWER. REQUEST PERMISSION TO LAND."

## Zeidler's Finally Out

There is no jumping for joy, even though Richard Zeidler, affectionately called Medford Fats, has finally resigned both as chairman of the Brookhaven Republican Organization and Committeeman.

Several years ago we said we admired Zeidler for his organizational abilities as a politician. He was one of the great political leaders. But once he had amassed his political power, he seemed unable to use it constructively for all the people. As time took its toll, Zeidler lost his grip on the party and by staying on as party leader, singlehandedly caused the down-fall of the Republican office holders on a State, County and Town level.

The Republican Party of Brookhaven Town now must go about rebuilding itself morally, structurally and financially as well as politically. It should never again allow itself to become so big, so powerful, it no longer responds to the people. It will need good, strong leadership that has its ear to the ground; it will need committeemen and block workers at their posts who do not have their heads in the patronage trough, who will work for the party and for the principles it embraces.


And in the end, the people of Brookhaven Town

will benefit as they will have two parties striving and working for their best interest. And why not?

### SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466  
 Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N. Y. 11901  
 Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of


173,000  
Weekly

Published weekly, except last week of year, in 13 market area editions.

North Fork	Mastic/Moriches	Coram/Middle Island
South Fork	Patchogue	Selden/Canterech
Riverhead	Medford/Holbrook	3 Villages/Port Jefferson
Hampton West	Sayville	Rocky Point
	Ronkonkoma	

Suffolk County Life is  
 An Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip, Town of Riverhead,  
 Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager	Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
Maxine Holmes - Production Director	Sal DeFornas - Sales Manager
Derlene Albin - Advertising Art Director	Rick Brand - News Editor
	Bill Johnson - Circulation Director

Subscription Rate:  
 In Suffolk County ..... \$5.00 per year  
 Outside Suffolk County ..... \$7.00 per year  
 Newsstand single copy sales ..... 25¢ per issue

\*\*\*\*\*

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Regional Transportation Tax - A Robber

New York's Mayor Beame is calling for a Regional Transportation Tax. This concept has picked up some support among state leaders. The Regional Transportation Tax is a thin disguise for a subway-mass transit subsidy.

The city is comprised of only two classes of people, the rich and the poor. What Beame is asking for is a tax on the middle-class that fled the horrors of the city to support the mass transit for the city's residents.

The middle-class New Yorkers' who fled to suburbia must provide for most of their own transportation needs. They do this by buying cars, generally two per family. They pay an initial sales tax, a renewable annual license tax, gasoline tax and sales tax on top of the gasoline tax and a real estate tax which pays for the Highway Departments that build and maintain the town and country roads. The state and federal roads are more than paid for out of the gas tax.

The middle-class has obviously, as we see by the taxes they pay, received no subsidization. In fact they pay more than their share and it would be grossly unjust for our legislators to create a

Regional Transportation Tax to subsidize those who are not even now paying their own way by taxing those who do.

Mass transit is in trouble because politicians have refused to say 'no' when bargaining with transit unions. Just over a year ago, we read a report where a soon to retire bus driver in the city transit system was able to bring his last year's salary up to and over \$35,000. He then retired on a fat pension based on his last year's earnings.

The suburban block in the legislature must unite and never allow a Regional Transportation Tax to be imposed. It is not fair and it is not just. We encourage you to contact your legislator by phone, in person or by letter, and convey this message. And why not?

## Moynihan Spoke American

There are few Americans who did not feel a bit of pride in Patrick Moynihan's performance as a United States Delegate to the U.N. Moynihan is tough, pragmatic and intelligent. He spoke as most Americans wish their government officials would speak. He really didn't give a damn about the feelings of our adversaries. He spoke up about their attacking us. Yet it appears those in power in the State Department have been successful in stifling his voice, as Moynihan has presented his resignation.

For too many years our government has allowed itself to be the target of upstart nations who are nothing more than economic leeches. They found they could condemn us with lies, accusations and insinuations. And as it is taught in the Bible, we turned the other cheek.

Moynihan was one American who got tired of turning the other cheek and fought back. He restored some measure of pride to all of us. We have never been able to understand the pacifist philosophy of not kicking back at somebody who is kicking at you. When somebody with a size 5 decides they are going to kick somebody with a size 10, they must realize they are going to get kicked back with twice as much leather. If they are not made to realize this they will have no respect for you and you are going to get kicked at frequently.

There is talk of nominating Moynihan to run for Senator in New York State. We can't say we are enthusiastic about this idea, even though we respect the man for standing up for this country. New York State has only two senators and they both should be from, and represent first and foremost the interests of New York State residents. But, we do hope that Moynihan continues in government service -- preferably as a replacement to "Give Away" Kissinger. And why not?

It gets mighty tiring listening to cops and teachers and other civil servants constantly crying "poor-mouth." It seems like we are in a never-ending battle with these employees and their constant raids on the Treasury. Each serves a function in our society and should earn a fair and adequate wage for the services they perform. When you analyze what these workers are being paid you realize why we are paying astronomical taxes.

The favorite trick of public employees is to talk about the net pay they receive after all deductions are taken out for taxes and other withholdings. They do not consider what the fringe packages they receive cost.

For teachers and police, fringe benefits run an astronomical 35 to 45 per cent above their gross salary. When you compute the gross salary plus the fringe and then divide by the actual physical hours worked by these employees, you have the average Suffolk County school teacher or police officer with five years of service receiving from \$15.00 to \$30.00 per hour. This is damn good pay in anybody's book.

These civil service employees do have a gripe because they never see anywhere near this amount of money. When all deductions are taken out of their salary and the fringes are paid on top of it, they are lucky to receive \$5.00 to \$15.00 per hour in actual cold hard cash. The rest of their pay is in funny money or kept for taxes. Funny money is promise for payment at a later date, such as pensions, sabbaticals, retirement, etc.

We wonder if these employees would not be more willing to give up their fringes and receive more cash in their paychecks. Our experience with employees has indicated, when given a choice, they will opt almost every time for money now and provide for their own benefits individually.

We've come to a time in our economic history when you can't continue to pay high salaries topped with high fringe packages. Something has to give. Smart governmental managers should start formulating plans for transferring over to a get-paid-now basis. Most of the pension packages and early retirement plans offered municipal workers are paid out of monies taxed today, not funds invested for future retirees. When a

## NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK



### LOWER YOUR THERMOSTAT

## Let's Hire By The Hour

municipality's income drops below its operating cost, it will go bankrupt.


We just witnessed New York City skimming past bankruptcy by the skin of its teeth. Next time, because the state itself will most likely be in a very perilous economic position, the city may be forced to default for good. Many other municipalities are quickly catching up to New York City's status. When this happens, cities, legally, will have no obligation to honor their retirement agreements. Furthermore, they will not have the taxes to pay for this obligation even if they wished to. This will leave the worker holding his hat in his hand, having given up higher cash in his paycheck for promises of an easy life in retirement.

If government can adopt a system of paying employees a decent hourly wage for a decent hour's work, governmental workers would earn more and taxes could be reduced. This is something every governmental worker should consider, something every taxpayer should think about and every elected official plan for. And why not?

### SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466  
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N. Y. 11901  
Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of



173,000  
Weekly

Published weekly, except last week of year, in 13 market area editions.

North Fork	Mastic/Moriches	Coram/Middle Island
South Fork	Patchogue	Selden/Cataraugus
Riverhead	Medford/Holbrook	3 Village/Port Jefferson
Hampton West	Sayville	Rocky Point
	Ronkonkoma	

Suffolk County Life is  
An Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip, Town of Riverhead,  
Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager	Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
Maxine Holmes - Production Director	Sei DeFontes - Sales Manager
Darlene Albin - Advertising Art Director	Rick Brand - News Editor
	Bill Johnson - Circulation Director

Subscription Rates:  
In Suffolk County ..... \$5.00 per year  
Outside Suffolk County ..... \$7.00 per year  
Newsstand single copy sales ..... 25¢ per issue

\*\*\*\*\*

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a non de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.