

Tax rebates are pure con

President Jimmy Carter has proposed a \$50.00 tax rebate to every taxpayer filing a return regardless of the amount that they paid.

Don't jump with joy; you have just been insulted. Big Brother is giving you back money he took from you last year. He used it for one year at no interest depreciating its value through inflation and now is making you a gift of your own money.

In accomplishing this, he is admitting he took too much money from you in the first place, or he is just going to print up more paper and increase inflation which will make all money less valuable.

Either way, tax rebates are a farce. The theory behind rebates is to stimulate the economy through spending. The average taxpayer is too smart to be suckered into this trap.

These funds will be used to pay overdue bills or for security purposes. Rebate money cannot be counted on. It's not large enough to inspire a major purchase.

We have all become cautious about making unnecessary purchases and will not be rushed into impulse buying because we have an extra fifty bucks to spend. The insulting part of this rebate is the amount will not even come close to making up for the additional tax money we were forced to pay last year due to inflation.

As inflation pushed up your income, it diminished your buying power. You not only paid additional money in taxes but you

paid a higher percentage of what you earned.

This cute ploy is the result of the progressive income tax system. It produces billions in additional income for the government. This is a hidden tax few Americans are aware of.

The government is, and it's the very reason why the federal government does so little to halt or control inflation. After extracting these additional taxes from the hard-working American people, it's hypocritical for the government to announce a program of rebates. This is just pure con and will not serve its purpose.

If Americans think about it, they will become infuriated. Let our government be honest for a change. Produce a tax system that ties the tax base to inflation. This will allow the American taxpayer to keep up with inflation and have real spendable income left over.

When the taxpayer can count on a regular amount of money to spend he will spend it. He will plan his finances carefully and make purchases our economy needs to grow.

This will cause real growth and it will be sustaining. Secure jobs will be produced and more people will go back to work.

This country needs honest changes in the tax system, not phony handouts of our own money. Let the American citizen keep a larger proportion of the money he earns each week and you'll have an expanding economy. This is what Americans need. And why not?

Who do you want to support?

Governor Carey, in his proposed budget for this coming year, took the bull by the horns and proposed to eliminate benefits for childless adults in good health who have received welfare benefits for over forty-five days.

This proposed move will eliminate over 50,000 individuals on the dole.

Liberals are up-in-arms bemoaning the fate of these people. They are asking, how will these poor, unfortunate people live?

We hope Carey answers the same way the taxpayers of New York State are, by working. If they can't find a job, they will have to move to a state where work is available.

A good percentage of New York State residents are working two and three jobs to survive.

The people Carey wants removed from the rolls are not unfortunate people who are on welfare because of circumstances beyond their control. They are professional

welfare workers who have chosen the dole as a way of life. They are capable of working, but understand the system and are playing it to the hilt.

We urge you to support Carey's proposal. Let him and your local state legislator know you do.

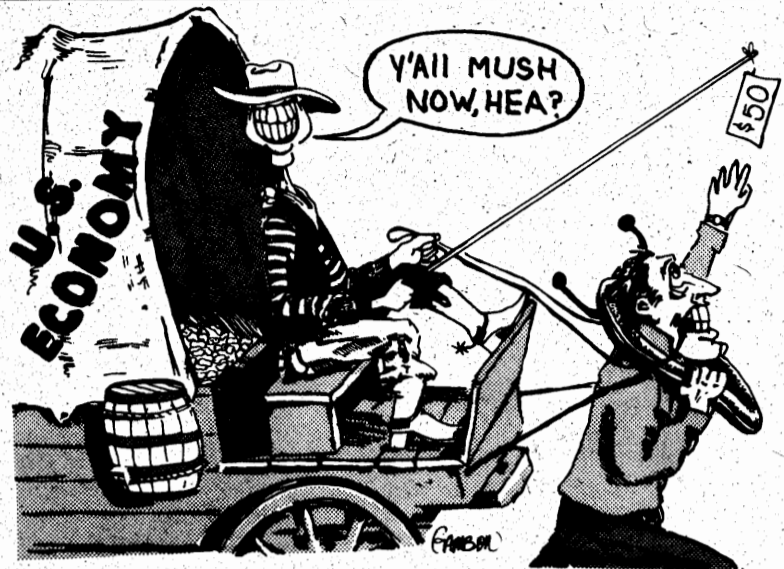
We sympathize with the liberals whose philosophy calls for the sharing of all income and wealth.

So they're not despondent, we encourage them to pick out those individuals who will be kicked off the dole and arrange with them to split their income and wealth on a one-to-one personal basis. This will be more meaningful for them and they will be able to make a greater contribution to mankind. After all, that is what they are proposing, isn't it?

We have no objections to them being suckers if they choose, but please don't continue to make us join them. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Dr. Goode returns

Animal lovers received good news last week. Dr. George Goode, one of Long Island's best known and respected veterinarians announced he will resume active practice at the hospital he built in Riverhead.

Goode is a legendary figure in animal circles. He earned an eminent reputation for his keen diagnostic and surgical skills. Up until his retirement last year, clients would send patients to him from all over the eastern seaboard.

Dr. Goode opened his practice in Riverhead in the early fifties. Typical of the veterinarians of that era, his home was the hospital. Goode, though, was a pioneer. He felt his patients deserved to receive the same quality of treatment the owners wanted for themselves. He proceeded to build a model animal hospital and treatment facility which is known professionally as one of the country's most modern and largest.

As in any good hospital, the heart of it is the laboratory. The diagnostic systems which Goode equipped this facility with exceeded some standards for human hospitals. He staffed the hospital with the cream of the crop from the country's leading veterinarian school - Cornell. He then set about personally teaching these bright young graduates the expertise his

years in practice had gained him.

Even while developing and building this large, modern practice, Goode maintained a close contact with his clients, making himself available without appointments.

His daily routine included checking personally on every animal in the hospital. Animal owners knew, even in the dead of night, if needed Dr. Goode could be reached.

Keeping up with this kind of schedule took its toll. Upon reaching sixty, Dr. Goode decided to retire quietly. He wanted time to enjoy himself without pressure, to fish, to hunt and pursue his other interests.

He was not long into retirement before he realized he could not give up totally his first love - the care and the well-being of animals and giving their owners comfort and security. He increasingly spoke about going back into practice at least on a limited basis.

It was great to hear Dr. Goode will be resuming practice. He will once again be chief veterinarian and the director of the Riverhead Animal Hospital. He plans on being actively involved in every aspect of the practice and is looking forward to renewing old friendships. And why not?

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willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

For there to be trust

President Carter reinstated fireside chats with the American people, that were made famous by President Franklin Roosevelt. The atmosphere was homey and his words reassuring.

Carter spoke about signing an emergency measure giving him some control over the natural gas problem, of tax and welfare reform and streamlining of government, and about reorganizing the bureaucracy to make it responsive and productive for the American people.

The main thrust of his speech was to ask the people to work together, to trust the government and each other.

As reassuring as his words may have been, it will not be easy for the American people to trust the government, not because of Watergate, but because the government has failed to live up to its expectations.

We expect our government to take care of things we cannot take care of ourselves; to stay out of areas we can control through our own efforts and personal involvement.

The government has done just the opposite.

We have looked to the government to control inflation. It has failed us. Steadily our paychecks and our income are being diminished.

It is hard to trust the federal government, when we know the federal government is the largest contributor and benefactor of inflation. As it goes deeper into debt and prints more paper money, our wealth and our buying power are diminished. As our salaries are pushed up, our buying power is lessened.

The federal government is not only taking more of our money, but also a larger percentage of our earnings through the progressive income tax system.

We understand and appreciate the capitalistic, free enterprise system. We know it works. This country was founded on this principle.

But we look to the federal government to control monopolies and cartels. The federal government is not doing its job when it allows a few companies and a handful of men to control industries producing vital necessities, such as petroleum, energy and food.

Our government failed to control the petroleum industry, when it allowed the petroleum industry to

blackjack this country into a 100 per cent rise in the cost of petroleum and energy through a phony petroleum shortage.

It was amazing; once prices were raised to the current levels, the lines at the gas stations disappeared and fuel oil was plentiful for homes and industries.

How can we trust the government when it currently is not able to protect us from being hurt by the alleged gas shortage?

Over three million people are without jobs. Schools are closed and some businesses and industries have been asked to close. Homes and hospitals are being threatened.

The natural gas industry has been telling us for two years if we deregulated the price of natural gas, we would not have to worry about a shortage. We did not deregulate it and mystically, now that we have a cold winter, we are in the midst of an acute gas shortage.

It has been reported there is adequate gas in the interstate pipe lines; deregulate the price and we will have gas for all.

Will our government stop this outright holdup? We doubt it.

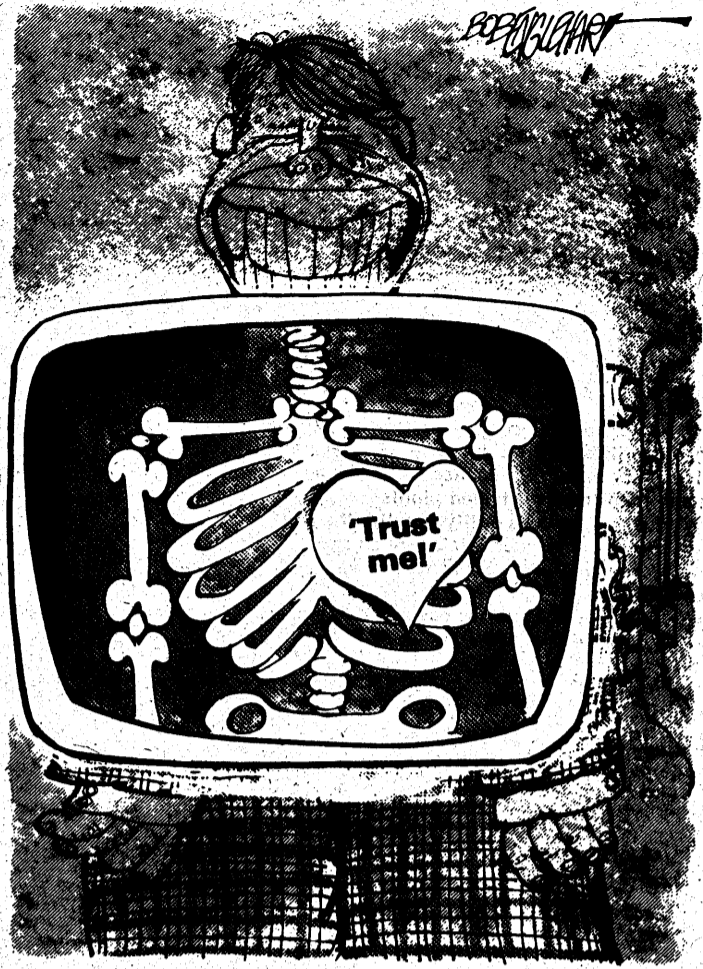
American's favorite beverage is coffee. The price has gone from \$1.50 per pound to \$3.50 a pound in less than one year. We were told this has been caused by a severe frost that wiped out the Brazilian coffee crop. Yet, in 1976, Brazil exported one million bags more of coffee than it did in 1975.

The price of coffee becomes easier to understand when you realize 50 per cent of the coffee business in the United States is controlled by just two companies. These facts are general knowledge and yet our government doesn't do anything to control these runaway costs of basic necessity.

These are the areas our federal government should be involved in. If they were and are effective, the American people could have the kind of trust Jimmy Carter is asking for.

Over the years, the American public has shown their willingness to back the government 100 per cent. To regain this spirit of cooperation, the government must show tangible signs of whose side it is on.

When we can see the government is working for us instead of us working for the government, the country will have turned around and will be headed in the right direction again. And why not?



Don't be caught in the squeeze

The news has been filled with reports of frost damage done to the winter vegetables and citrus crops.

The Florida Citrus Commission, also known as the marketing arm of the citrus growers, ordered an embargo on shipments of citrus juices for two weeks, until they can ascertain the damage that has been done.

Supplies of all southern grown produce are going to be in limited supply. Prices will rise, how high will depend upon your reaction.

You lived through the gas, beef and coffee squeeze. Those you had little control over.

By the reports being circulated, you can feel another squeeze coming on citrus fruits and vegetables. The ground work is being laid for some whopping big price increases.

The manipulators in the market are counting on you to panic. They anticipate your buying up all the stock in stores that is available. When this stock is gone, they will tell us because of the freeze the supply cannot meet the demand

and this is the reason for exorbitantly high prices.

The farmers will take a beating because of loss of crop and the supermarkets will not make their normal margin of profit because of the stiff competition caused by the high prices.

The manipulators in between will have a field day unless we restrain ourselves.

We can beat them at their own game if we cut back on our usage and create a glut in the market.

We recommend you immediately cut your consumption in half. If you are worried about a balanced diet, supplement it with vitamin pills. Within a few months our marketplaces will start to be filled with spring crops and prices should stabilize.

For a change, you have the ability to control how high prices will be. It's a simple matter of adjusting our eating and purchasing habits. If we don't, we will pay the price at the supermarket. And why not?

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Carey's budget makes sense

Governor Carey's budget for this coming year is controversial as all hell. In essence, it is just what the taxpayers have been asking for.

It proposes a 3 per cent increase in state spending. This is a reduction of over 100 per cent in the increase we have faced in the last decade. It provides the mechanics to reduce governmental spending at all levels, state, federal and local.

Carey's budget calls for the elimination of costly and annoying state mandates which have become the nemesis of local government. It faces squarely the problems of New York State.

State assistance programs, in the past, have encouraged spending and punished efficiency. This year's budget proposes to do the opposite and that is what makes it controversial.

Carey calls for cut-backs in welfare, school aid, state revenue sharing and in numerous other areas.

Those who will get less than in the past are screaming loud and clear. After the din has quieted down, we hope they will take the time to read past the cut-backs and study the rest of his budget.

Carey notes in his budget message that public school enrollments have been declining, but the state's per pupil costs have accelerated. They are now 60 per cent higher than the national average.

This partially happened because of the state's save harmless clause, guaranteeing school districts whose enrollments are declining at least the same aid as in past years, even though they have fewer students to educate. Inefficiency, feather bedding, and waste of badly needed tax dollars has resulted.

Carey calls for a close examination of total education spending, not only by the state but also the local level. He asks the question all of us have asked: "As taxpayers, what can we afford?" He faces reality.

The state cannot eliminate aid to localities only to have them transfer this cost to homeowners. In retrospect, the state cannot

absorb any further aid to relieve the local real estate tax burden.

Carey offers a solution. He calls for reasonable limits to be placed on future increases on the cost of education. They are to be held to inflation only.

Carey asks for a partnership between the state and local governments to hold down costs. He proposes a plan based on per pupil aid limiting expenses on a per pupil basis, to what was spent during the current year, plus adjustments for inflation.

Those districts which comply will be rewarded; those districts exceeding his guidelines will be penalized. Under this approach, a school district which limits increases in per pupil costs to acceptable levels in 1977-78 will receive increases in operating aid in school year 1978-1979.

To participate in the new program, a school district must limit its 1976-1977, 1977-1978 increase in per pupil cost from two per cent (high expense districts) to 6.6 per cent (low expense districts).

Once meeting this criterion, each eligible school district will be guaranteed increases in operating aid ranging from two to six per cent per pupil for school year 1978-79.

Those districts which do not limit their per pupil cost increase to the maximum levels will be barred from participation in the program and, therefore, will receive the lesser of the amount of operating aid they received in 1977-78, or the amount generated by the regular aid formula in 1978-79.

This theme is carried out through his entire budget. It puts the emphasis on efficiency and production. It rewards cost-cutting and penalizes liberal spending.

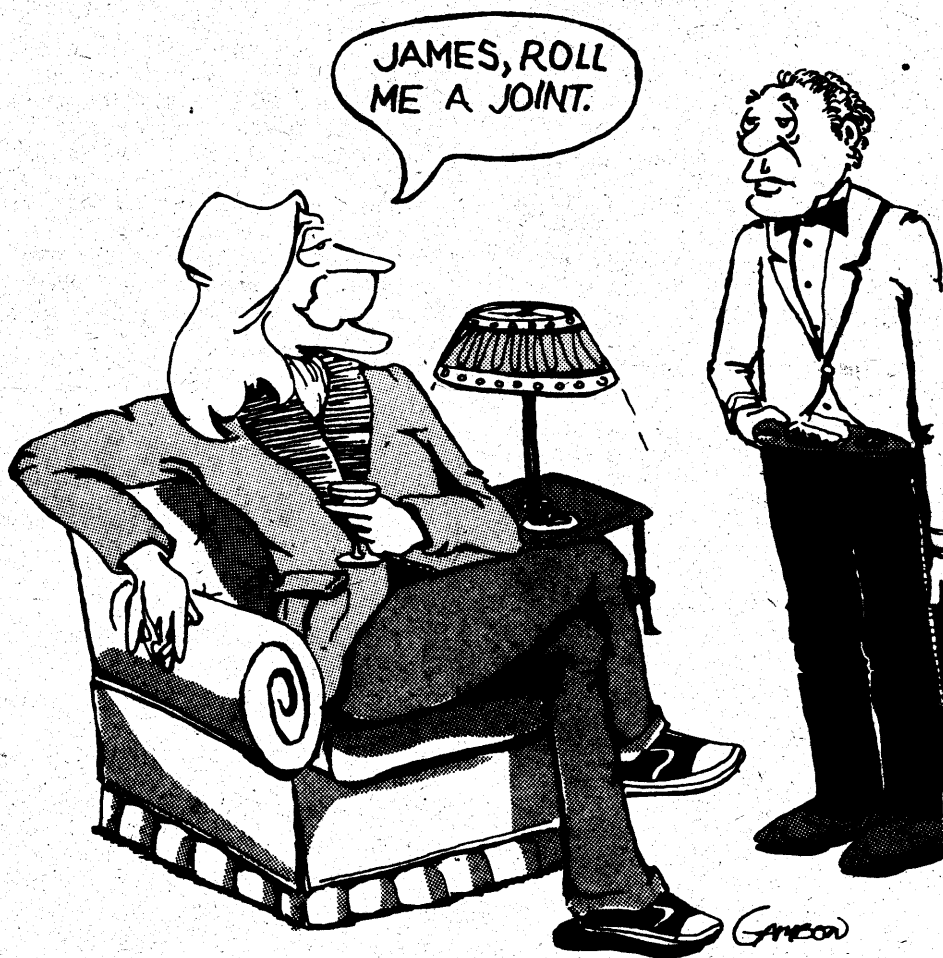
His budget is the most conservative one proposed for New York State in the last twenty years.

If followed, it will lead to a reduction in all state taxes.

Carey's aim is to bring our state expenditures and taxes into line with the rest of the nation. He does not want to be the governor of a state whose people pay the highest taxes in the nation. Carey's budget is good news. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Change in marijuana law

New York State has the most stringent drug laws in the nation. They were voted into law after drug abuse reached almost epidemic proportions.

These stringent laws appear to have done what they were intended to do. Drugs are still a major problem but the tide has, at least, been halted.

The teeth in these drug laws are contained in the penalties for pushing and possession of large quantities which, under the law, are considered to be for other than personal use.

We supported the enactment of these drug laws. We still do. We do, though, have reservations about the penalties called for under these laws for the possession of a small amount of marijuana.

Marijuana today is used by a large percentage of people under 35. Users cross all ethnic, economic and social strata.

Governor Carey and many legislators and law enforcement personnel have advocated decriminalization for the possession of marijuana in quantities under two ounces. They argue the use of marijuana in our society is widespread and socially accepted.

It has not been clearly proven one way or another if the use of marijuana causes any more complications than the consumption of alcohol.

Our current laws pertaining to possession are unduly harsh and have had little effect on halting usage. It is argued the use of marijuana is a personal thing. Its consumption, if harmful, hurts no one but the consumer.

The legislature this year is expected to act on decriminalization for the possession of marijuana. Current drug laws will remain in effect covering the marketing and selling of this substance. Possession will be reduced to a violation similar to that of a traffic ticket.

Decriminalization appears to us to be a governmental copout. In essence, it is saying to users, 'go ahead, buy from whatever sources you can, use at will, and if we catch you, we will still slap your wrist because we don't know what else to do.'

Why not face the marijuana issue squarely? If the legislature feels that marijuana is not dangerous, change laws to make it legal. Regulate the selling and marketing, as we do on alcohol and tobacco. This way the state will have some control but at least it will not be hypocritical in its approach.

We are frank to admit we are confused on this issue. We are interested in hearing from all sides as to their opinion as we are sure the legislature will, also. And why not?

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Lousing up 'Las Vegas Nights'

The voters in New York State authorized local municipalities to decide for themselves whether they would favor Las Vegas nights, to be run as fund-raisers for non-profit organizations within their communities.

Municipalities have held ballots on this proposition, most have passed.

Las Vegas nights, illegal under the old law, were commonly run by churches, synagogues and fraternal organizations. The proceeds raised have kept parochial schools opened, built synagogues and churches, and provided the funds for non-profit organizations to be involved in charitable and civic betterment projects.

Games of chance were similar to those in Las Vegas. The action was basically the same. Chips or tokens were bought for cash and the payoffs, if you were lucky, were also in cash.

Las Vegas nights became legal last week.

The state released the rules it wants these games run by. As might be expected, they are absurd. They are a prime example of bureaucratic overkill.

The maximum payout for an entire evening of play can be no more than \$1,000. Winners cannot collect until all games are closed and a tally is made, which will determine the amount of money the sponsors have to work with.

The rules forbid poker, craps, and any other game where bettors

match their skill and luck on a one-to-one basis against each other.

These games are traditionally where the house makes most of its money. In Las Vegas the casinos make money by working on the houses edge or taking the ante. This leaves the bettor a little less than even odds.

The rules and regulations currently in effect will discourage charitable organizations from running Las Vegas nights. Those who do will be forced into operating illegal games and subjecting their promoters to embarrassment and prosecution.

These laws serve neither the purpose nor the intent of the legislature and the voters. They will only cause confusion and perpetrate criminal activity.

Why can't the bureaucrats who designed these regulations wake up to the fact that voters themselves decided they wanted gambling?

They did not want regulations. They are going to gamble one way or the other whether the state sanctions it or not.

Setting up asinine, bureaucratic regulations in an attempt to control people's morals went out with prohibition.

Our legislature must repeal these rules and substitute regulations designed to allow people to enjoy themselves, non-profit organizations to raise funds and the state itself to enrich itself from the taxes they will garner. And why not?

Not another department

The Suffolk County Legislature is considering the establishment of a new department of energy. Proponents of this move claim the department is needed to conserve our present energy and to develop alternate means of energy such as the utilization of solar and wind.

To set up another department in Suffolk County is an utter waste of energy. The county has about as much chance as a snowball in hell of altering the nation's method of producing energy on a meaningful scale.

If the department of energy is established, we'll have to look forward to more high-priced bureaucrats who know little about anything and less about energy.

They will develop rules and regulations duplicating, hampering and then hindering the

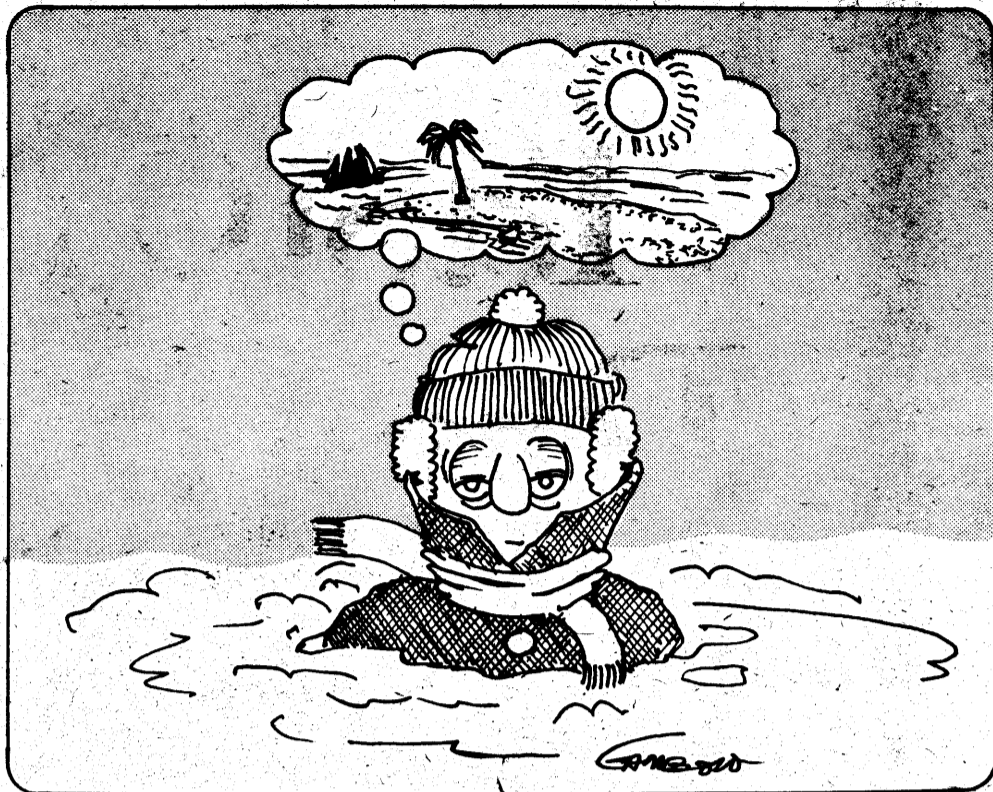
distribution of energy in the county. They will cause havoc and disrupt the system.

It will cost us tax dollars and in the end will be unable to solve a single problem.

Energy is not a county function. In its simplest form it is a national problem and more realistically a world-wide one.

If the Legislature is seriously interested in energy utilization and waste, it should evaluate the county's entire structure from King John's office right down to pothole filling.

Eliminate the wasted procedures, duplications of labor and useless jobs. They would end up spending less of our money and cut our county's energy consumption. And why not?



Trying to be optimistic

It has been a great year for ice boating. Sleds and skates have sold like mad. Oil dealers are the happiest group in town.

Strawberries, according to tradition, should be sweet and plentiful this spring, after having been nestled in a warm bed covered by six weeks of snow.

Kids have built snowmen and igloos. They have had ice for skating and playing hockey on.

A glorious time it has been for those who have daringly driven on

the ice-covered bays.

A lot of people have rediscovered the pleasures of a roaring, hot fireplace. Everybody has something to talk about.

Isn't this the kind of winter Grandpa used to relish remembering?

Let's hope the worst is behind us and we have no more years like this ahead so we can say with a glimmer in our eyes to our grandchildren, "I can remember the winter of 1977." And why not?

Right turn on red light

On January 1 it became legal for New York State motorists to make a right turn on a red light.

Drivers must first come to a full stop and determine if it is safe to make this maneuver. Pedestrians, regardless of the light, still have the right of way. This law pertains to all red lights except those posted otherwise, outside of the city of New York.

This simple change in the motor vehicle law appears to have already eliminated traditional bottlenecks. It has not caused any unusual confusion. As more drivers become familiar with the provisions, we can look forward to an even better flow of traffic. It is encouraging to see a law changed for the better. And why not?

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Keep oil companies out of competition

We have all suffered from the petroleum companies' unmerciful hold over the oil business. They own everything from the oil fields near through to the gas pumps, and protest as they may, there are earned few Americans who do not feel that the petroleum industry is a cartel which controls prices, artificially rigs availability and is sapping wind-fall profits.

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, announced this past week that he favors legislation prohibiting the oil companies from developing competitive sources of energy, which are coal, nuclear and solar energy. This is good news to the consumer.

If oil companies cannot control these competing sources, competition from others may result in the cost of oil and energy being more realistic. Unfortunately many oil companies have already invested heavily in other methods of fuel.

It was recently reported the petroleum companies directly and indirectly, through subsidiaries,

control 60 per cent of the coal resources in the U.S. Over 50 per cent of the uranium holdings, and numerous power companies have interconnecting directorships with petroleum company officers or bankers who are wedded to both businesses.

We personally favor mandatory dismantling of the oil companies, whereby the different facets of the operation would have to be owned by different sources.

We strongly support the proposed legislation that would make it illegal for petroleum companies to control alternate means of energy. Those companies that have already moved in this direction should be ordered by law to divest themselves of this interest. This is important to all of us as consumers.

Energy is not a product we can avoid using. We encourage you to communicate with your congressmen, senators, and President Carter on this issue. And why not?

Worth investing in

The tragic house fire last week in Holbrook in which five children lost their lives is a grim reminder of the value of a fire detector. These detectors sense a build-up of heat and smoke. An alarm is set off automatically before a fire has had an opportunity to rage out of control.

Brookhaven Town and some other East End municipalities require all new homes to have these appliances installed before they issue a C.O. (Certificate of Occupancy). Older homes are exempt from this provision.

Last fall, Suffolk Life published a feature story on these devices and the Brookhaven Town law. A North Shore resident stated that he and his family probably would have lost their lives if it was not for the presence of a fire detection system. Older homes have a greater potential of fire; yet, it is not mandatory they have an alarm system. It is left up to the

discretion of the individual homeowner.

These alarms are moderate in price. A dependable alarm runs from \$25.00 up, depending upon the type.

Some systems work independently on batteries which must be checked and replaced. This is a less reliable system than ones directly wired into the circuitry of the house.

Some systems use both methods of electricity depending on one to back up the other.

We encourage you to investigate installing these lifesaving appliances in your home. No one can determine when or where an accidental fire will break out.

We want to believe it can't happen to us, but why take the chance? Look into it today, failure to do so may mean you are gambling with your family's life. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

How much is a congressman worth?

One of President Ford's last acts before he left office was to approve a pay raise for congressmen, judges and top bureaucrats. These raises will automatically go into effect unless one of the houses of Congress votes to repeal it before February 20th. The pay raises will jump our congressmen's salaries from \$44,000 to \$57,500 in one step. This is a 29 per cent pay raise and Congress will not even have to vote on it.

How much is your congressman worth? What is it worth to you to have men like Otis Pike and Thomas Downey represent you?

Pike has served sixteen years in Congress. As an attorney in private practice, he probably can draw down better than a hundred grand a year.

Downey is in his second term. Prior to his election to Congress, he was a county legislature and earned a little over \$16,000 per year.

Both of these congressmen obviously have the respect of their constituency, as they won reelection by a smashing two-thirds majority. Both men, we believe, are honest and do their darnedest to serve their constituency.

The position of congressman, like many legislative positions, was intended to be a part-time job. In fact, many congressmen still hold outside positions.

The office of Congress is a psychologically rewarding position. It provides a tremendous boost to a person's ego, and for this reason some men have spent over \$1,000,000 just to be elected to this position.

When one seeks the office of Congress he generally is motivated out of his desire for power, recognition and service to his fellow man.

We cannot look solely at the dollar compensation of congressmen as their only reward. These other aspects are too important to be put aside.

We also question whether a junior congressman is worth anywhere near as much as a congressman who has years of experience. Should not consideration be given to how well a congressman spends our money?

Pike, who serves on several major committees and because of his years of service would be expected to have built a bureaucracy around him. But, Pike runs his office at about 60 per cent of the cost of Thomas Downey. Pike achieves this by doing some of the work himself and pinching pennies.

What is your opinion of this congressional pay raise? What do you think your congressman is worth? Why not let him know? And why not?



Where's freedom of warmth gone.

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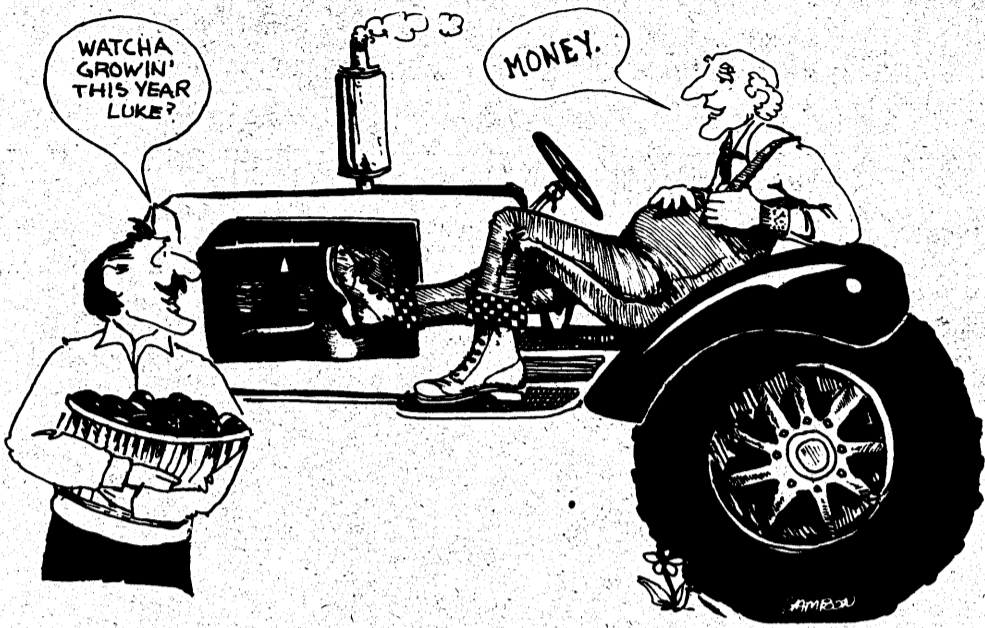
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Will the Governor act?

As we stated in last week's editorial, Governor Carey is attempting to change government spending and the tax structure of New York State. His intent is to bring the state back into prominence, to make it a place attractive to business, to industry and to labor.

New York is in a decline because of its excessive taxes, and its high cost of living. Among the highest cost factors for both businesses and individuals are petroleum products and energy. Long Island and New York City residents pay close to the highest rates for energy in the nation, according to a survey released last fall in an economic journal.

LILCO has just announced it is petitioning for a whopping 15 per cent rate increase, to take effect as early as June 1. This will be on top of the present rate and fuel adjustment charge. They want this increase to finance construction of new, high priced generating facilities.

It is a mystery to us why the consumer is asked to finance construction costs of a profit making business. Normally, in the business world, when a company wants to expand, it sells additional

stock or generates the funds for this expansion from profits. Because a utility has damned near a license to steal, it would appear it thinks it can make current users pay for stockholders' improvements through higher rates.

If LILCO is granted this exorbitant rate increase, additional businesses and productive citizens will be forced to leave Long Island.

Governor Carey has shown his courage by attempting to stop the inflationary spiral of state expenditures. We hope he will intervene and use the power of his office to stop this unmerciful rate increase.

Long Island and New York State cannot afford LILCO's greed. If we are going to reverse the outflow of people and businesses, we must stop the high cost of doing business.

Carey's intervention will weigh heavily in the outcome of these rate hike increases. We encourage him to act now.

The legislature should also develop the regulations needed to prohibit utilities (which are profit-making corporations) from petitioning for rate hike increases to finance any aspect of capital improvements. And why not?

Who pays for tax free land?

The creation of agri-districts and the taking of land for the unrelated farmland preservation program will wreak havoc on our real estate tax rate this coming year.

As every parcel is removed from the tax rolls, the remaining parcels will have to pick up their share of the tax burden. Taxes will be increased on the remaining taxable land.

One farmer told us he expects his taxes to be reduced from over \$13,000 to under \$3,000 in this coming year.

This is great news for farmers, but it is going to raise hell with the tax base.

Home and land owners whose properties are not going to receive this special treatment will be forced to make up for this reduction in taxes with an increased tax burden tacked on their property. The pressure on individual owners is growing heavier as the county and state grab up vacant lands for future parks and recreation areas.

In addition, churches, schools and municipalities are constantly expanding and taking additional land off the tax rolls. It makes no difference if you live in the East End, where the farm districts lie, or in the west end of the county. Your taxes will climb because of county real estate tax.

Many parcels of land are controlled by government outside of Suffolk. Both the federal and state government have large holdings here. Even Nassau County and the City of New York have camps and

recreation facilities in Suffolk on which they pay no taxes.

This leaves the residents of Suffolk holding the bag. They must pay for all the services required for these outside interests. It is estimated some towns have as much as 35 per cent of these tax properties off the rolls. If these properties were taxed as any other real estate, taxes would be reduced 25 per cent.

A small community upstate found itself in the position of having 90 per cent of its land in a similar tax free status. As a self-defense measure, residents of this community joined a mail order church, became ordained, and declared their homes churches. By law, they were granted a tax free status.

This is a drastic move, one we do not particularly advocate.

We look to our government to recognize the burden it has placed on the individual taxpayers and develop the mechanisms for either taxing this land or removing the exemptions allowing the land to be taxed as normal property.

We cannot continue to carry this burden indefinitely. During this coming year we will feel the devastating impact of the agri-changes.

Production and the availability of food is a regional problem, not solely a local one. The burden of financing agri-districts should be spread over the entire use area. Local taxpayers cannot absorb the cost by themselves. And why not?

Did you forget?

During November and December, we asked every reader of Suffolk Life to renew his or her subscription for 1977. Our Suffolk Life Newspaper is not free. It is distributed to you on a voluntary, paid basis.

More simply, you receive Suffolk Life each week because we trust you, and we know you will voluntarily pay for your subscription during the year.

We need you to pay for your subscription so we may continue to finance the news portion of our publication. Our news staff puts in long and tedious hours trying to keep up and ahead of the news so you may be well informed. Our photographers cover as many affairs as they are physically able to get to.

As a publication, we devote between 25 and 40 per cent of our pages to news copy. These pages are not paid for by our advertisers. They are paid for by our subscribers.

We ask every family who receives Suffolk Life to send in \$4.99 each year to cover this cost. We make our billing year from January 1 to December 31. We do this to keep our subscription costs

down and also to make it easier for you to keep track of when your subscription is due for renewal.

With the expenses of the holidays, some people are short of cash and postpone sending in their renewal. If you are one of these people, won't you please, write out a check now for \$4.99. Fill out the form below and send it in today. Thank you. And why not?

Please renew my subscription to Suffolk Life Newspapers for 1977. Enclosed is \$4.99 for a one year subscription.

Enclosed is \$6.88 for a two year subscription.

Enclosed is \$8.77 for a three year subscription.

Please discontinue delivery of Suffolk Life.

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There must be a balance

"If you let me build on this meadow, I will be the best damned conservationist you have ever seen."

This statement was made by a cliff dweller petitioning for a variance to build a house on wetlands.

Unfortunately, it exemplifies the attitude of many of our part-time residents. They want zoning changes to be permitted, which would allow them to build and live here. Once here, they want a wall erected at the William Floyd Parkway to keep everyone else from invading their paradise.

Their paradise?

This is the way they think of it. They want nothing to change. Once they are here, they want the land to remain just the way they found it. The fact that trees had to be taken down for their homes to be built, marshes bulkheaded to provide moorings for their boats, new stores that had to open to serve their needs, is all inconsequential. Now that they are here, all further construction should stop.

They follow the sun

They follow the sun out east in the summer, trek out on nice weekends during the spring and the fall.

Their arms are laden with packages from Lord & Taylor, Saks and the like. Some even have their liquor, meats and produce delivered because they know we just don't carry the quality of goods they desire. When they are here in full force during the season, they push the tails off the local businesses to cater to their demands.

That's okay, but what they leave behind isn't.

Eastern Long Islanders must limp through the late fall, winter and early spring with a shattered, part-time economy. Every winter, thousands of people are out of work, businesses are forced to close.

Best of two worlds

Eastern Long Island needs to develop year-round industry, but our part-time residents are opposed to this. They have the best of both worlds: secure, well paying jobs in the city and a paradise here when they want to escape.

They intend to keep it this way. Although fewer in numbers, they have organized into powerful groups. These groups are well off financially and have available the best legal talent money can buy. They have representatives at our village and town board meetings and they speak up. The year-round residents seldom attend these meetings.

Our elected officials, being political animals, therefore, give in to the wishes of the loudest voice. Year-round residents are here by

choice and they appreciate the quality of life out here all year long.

They, too, are interested in preserving what is good, but the lack of year-round economy forces them to be realists.

To eat every day, you must have a year-round job. To buy a house and obtain a mortgage, the bank insists upon fifty-two weeks of paychecks. This area must have businesses and industries that are productive twelve months a year.

Beer in the 'fridge

An unemployment check may put the bare necessities on your table, but it does not put a six pack of beer in the 'fridge for Saturday night's R & R.

As our children grow up, we want to be able to further their education. College can't be financed on a part-time income. When our children go out into the world and look for jobs, they look for year-round jobs.

When they marry and look to buy their first home, there must be land in their price range. Most undeveloped land in Eastern Long Island is now zoned one and two acres. When they become successful they can move into larger residences as their economic situation improves.

Don't want E.L.I. to grow

These are the needs that must be weighed against keeping Eastern Long Island as it is.

Month after month, we have covered board meetings and listened to protests from our part-time residents, condemning zoning changes for more realistic housing, business and industrial development. They do not want Eastern Long Island to grow. They want it to remain rural. They are here now, and the hell with everyone else.

Ironically, all residents are interested in the same thing. Year-rounders and part-timers both want to preserve our unique quality of life. The difference between the two groups is part-timers can afford to have no growth here. They live in year-round areas that are developed economically. They work in businesses and industries paying decent year-round salaries. They have the best of the two worlds and you can't blame them for protesting change.

Must make real effort

Those of us who call Eastern Long Island home have a responsibility to see our quality of life is preserved but changes are made to stabilize our economy.

We must make a real effort to encourage proper industrial and business development. We must make it easy and attractive for year-round employers to set up businesses. Artificial barriers that have been created must be

removed. They are costing us jobs and economic development.

When a proposal is made for a progressive change, we must stop saying 'no' and start asking if this change can benefit our economy and how can it be blended into the environment to co-exist with our agricultural and resort areas.

Eastern Long Island can be an intermingled, homogeneous area providing a strong economy and a solid tax base. What is left of rural Eastern Long Island, should be planned and developed to please both year-round and part-time

residents. Our quality of life can be preserved and even enhanced.

Eastern Long Island is too valuable to be exclusively a farm, resort or industrial area. Its land and people have a need for all three, and they should be encouraged to develop together.

It makes more sense for year-rounders and part-timers to recognize the strengths, the weaknesses and the needs of the whole area, and to work together to develop an economically sound paradise for the future. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



HOLDING UP PROGRESS

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Private enterprise v.s. government bumbling

There is a shortage of low-cost housing in Suffolk County, acutely affecting senior citizens. This problem has been partially solved by the creation of mobile home parks by private entrepreneurs. Some parks offer first class, quality living to their tenants. Others are highly restrictive and abuse the rights of the tenants. Unscrupulous operators are able to get away with this because tenants, once established in these parks, are unable to find other park space to which they can move their homes.

Zoning regulations heavily restrict the creation or expansion of parks. Most zoning ordinances do not allow for mobile homes to be erected on individual plots of land. Therefore, there is a shortage of sites from which mobile home owners can choose.

Today's modern mobile homes are a far cry from the "tin cans" gypsies used to pull from town to town. Today's mobile home community can be an outstanding example of planned housing developments, providing for the needs of the leasees.

Contemporary mobile homes are designed to give their owners maximum utilization of space, minimum upkeep and yet still provide the niceties of having and owning your own home. They offer comfort, convenience and economy, and are ideally suited for childless couples.

Unfortunately, the misconceptions based upon the gypsy image associated with trailers is still applied towards mobile homes. It has resulted in the restrictive zoning ordinances limiting parks and mobile home sites.

Unscrupulous operators are able to get away with murder. If they had competition, created by the availability of sites in quality parks, they would be forced to provide decent facilities, realistic regulations and fair rentals. This would give them a fair margin of profit, while at the same time keeping rents and restrictions within bounds.

Suffolk County Legislator Lou Howard last week unveiled a plan for the county to go into the mobile home business. He proposed to develop mobile home parks on county-owned lands. This is absolutely asinine, utterly ridiculous.

There is not a single logical reason why the taxpayers of Suffolk County should consider having their tax dollars spent to provide services which private enterprise wants to provide. There have been numerous proposals made by legitimate and well recognized business people for the establishment of additional parks.

The availability of more space would alleviate the problems of bad parks, would make available low cost housing and would pay taxes in proportion to the value and use of the land and the units. They would not require the infusion of one cent of tax monies, and, in fact, would reduce the burden on existing real estate.

It has been proven time and time again that private enterprise can and does operate more effectively than government. For private enterprise to operate, it only has to be released from the bounds of government restriction and regulations. Once these restrictions are removed, free trade and competitive factors take over. For a business to be successful and profitable, the product must be priced competitively and the service rendered.

It's unfair for the county to even consider interfering any more in a problem created by their initial involvement and the resulting restrictions.

Suffolk County needs reasonable, low cost housing for their senior citizens. Properly planned, operated and maintained mobile home communities is an answer. Private capital is waiting for the green light to allow it to enter into this area. If our county government is concerned about people, they will use their power to make land available for this purpose. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



You can't have the city in the country

People choose to live in the city or the country for reasons as different as day and night.

In the city you have literally thousands of people living on a single acre of land.

Compacting people into such a small space has disadvantages, but it is advantageous to the urban government which can provide services for its residents its country counterparts cannot. In the city, mass transportation is the way of life. The car is the rarity.

On Long Island, a car is an absolute necessity when mass transit is the oddity. The reason is simple. All of Manhattan could fit into almost anyone of the nine out of ten towns in Suffolk.

Within the confines of New York City, there are eight million people, and millions of transients. Mass transportation is the only practical means of moving these people about.

Even with a huge number of people needing to be moved from one place to another, the city's mass transit system operates at a deficit. Subway and bus fares in the city are 50 cents. Yet the system must be subsidized in order to survive. That is because the system tries to serve people on the schedules they want. Often times subways and buses run far below capacity and lose money.

The reason we bring up New York's mass transit system is to show the absolute folly of something the county is considering.

In Suffolk there is little need for mass transportation. This need comes from senior citizens who have moved out from the city and people who, due to economic cir-

cumstances, have been forced to give up a car as a means of transportation. Their needs are valid and legitimate, but we question if their needs can be satisfied by living here in Suffolk County.

Suffolk County is approximately 45 times as large as New York City, and yet has less than one-eighth of the population of the city. The county legislature is considering becoming involved in mass transit through direct ownership of bus lines or by heavy subsidization of existing operations to enable them to run non-profitable routes to accommodate those who need this service. The county also is considering a scheme to utilize school buses to fulfill this need.

If routes were feasible, private enterprise would fill this void and profit by the need. But, these routes are not profitable and it is foolish for the county to contemplate investing your precious tax dollars to serve a very limited number of people.

A suburban-rural county such as Suffolk has no business in the mass transportation field. It is a service we cannot afford, nor is it a service that should be normally expected of a rural-suburban county.

Our taxes are high because the county has entered fields in which it does not belong and has no hope of competently fulfilling their needs. If the county enters into the mass transit business it will only be able to provide inadequate service satisfying almost no one.

County government cannot be all things to all people and it is unrealistic and a waste of your tax money for it to attempt to. And why not?

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