

Why Generate on Long Island?

It's history now. The State Siting Board turned down LILCO's request to build a nuclear generating site at Jamesport.

In turning down LILCO's request board members suggested a smaller, coal-fired unit as an alternative. A few weeks before this decision, I had lunch with a couple of officials from LILCO. We discussed the company's need for an energy source, the credibility problem LILCO had with the community, and the partnership between LILCO and the residents of Long Island.

LILCO officials at that time said they felt the Siting Board would rule against them. They felt even then they would be ordered to generate electricity by burning coal. They also mentioned that the federal government had ordered the Northport generating facility have its current oil-fired plants converted to coal because of its dependence on foreign oil.

Officials admitted that burning coal will be far cheaper, possibly resulting in reduced electrical rates. They said, though, they were caught in a Catch 22 situation. When they built the Northport facility they had promised the community the plant would be clean, quiet and create a minimum of disturbance.

Since its creation, using oil, LILCO has lived up to its promise. With the federal demand these plants be converted, this will change. According to LILCO officials, a coal operation is noisier, dirtier and poses more severe health problems. During our talk, I mentioned that a LILCO official earlier had denied that electricity can be generated upstate and transmitted to Long Island. This statement has been contradicted. That helped bring LILCO's credibility into question.

When I left the meeting, it was my impression LILCO spokesmen were resigned to generating Long Island's electrical needs by burning coal in the

future. For over a week, I mulled the ramifications of using coal and the effects it will have on our environment and our way of life. The more I thought, the more I came back to my original question of why must electricity be generated here on Long Island?

Does it not make more sense to generate electricity away from Long Island, in a scarcely populated area, and import the electricity to fill Long Island's needs?

Does it not make far more sense to build coal-fired generating plants near the source of energy? We have vast quantities of coal, an estimated 400 years' supply, less than 300 miles from New York.

Why not build coal-fired generating plants in the heart of the coal lands, close to the source of the raw energy? Then, transmit the finished product to where it is needed. It has to be far more economical to transport electricity than coal. Electricity generated at the source of the raw material can be sent over power lines to where it is needed. By generating electricity in the heart of the coal region we can avoid the mammoth loading and unloading problems and the cost of transportation that requires additional energies.

Coal regions of the United States are known as the poorest in the country. Areas requiring huge federal subsidies would be given a better economic base. Subsidies would be more productive through creation of power generating facilities and transmitting lines. By doing this, the federal government could build a solid economic base while solving our energy needs and curtailing our dependence on foreign oil.

Before LILCO converts Northport or builds a coal-fired generating plant at Jamesport, the possibility of building a generating facility off Long Island should be explored.

And why not?

Good Government Is Good Politics

County Executive Peter Cohalan has appointed a number of Democrats to his administration, along with a greater majority of Independents and Republicans. We would have expected him to do no less.

The appointment of the Democrats has upset some old guard Republicans who still have not gotten Cohalan's message from the voters that good government is good politics regardless of the political label.

Two of Cohalan's Democratic appointments were exceptional choices. Allen Smith, the former supervisor of the Town of Riverhead, is one of the most competent men ever

to handle the helm of that town. It would have been a tragic public loss if he was allowed to slip back into the private sector. Suffolk will benefit greatly with him as deputy county attorney.

Sandra Rosalia has been active in feminist and affirmative action causes. She is bright, articulate and demonstrates administrative ability and plain common sense. She is a natural for her job and it would have been wrong for the job of special projects coordinator to go to a Republican with lesser credentials.

Anthony Noto, presiding officer of the Legislature, followed Cohalan's

lead. He has asked Martin Feldman, a four-term legislator and defeated Democratic candidate for county executive, to be an administrative aide to the Legislature. Feldman had the credentials to run for county executive. He had an admirable record as a working legislator and is extremely knowledgeable, not only about the Legislature but many governmental functions.

As a legislator, he, Noto and Michael Grant developed a working non-partisan partnership that was one of the most productive coalitions in the Legislature's 10-year history. Noto showed wisdom in convincing

Feldman to remain active in government, not allowing his eight years of experience to go to waste.

Government, to serve the public, must be made up of the best talent it can attract. The philosophical beliefs of the employees do not necessarily hinder or interfere with the jobs. All in government must realize their first responsibility is to serve the people who are paying their salaries, and only secondarily the political parties and leaders who might have helped them win an election. Putting good government before politics is good politics.

And why not?

Right To Self Rule

In the simplest context, the American Revolution was fought for the right to choose the form of government the people felt could best serve them. Ironically, 200 years later, we are still fighting the same battle.

Suffolk County residents have petitioned the Legislature, spoken out with both words and print, about their desire to choose the type of governing body they want. They have asked for permission to choose, by ballot, whether they should be ruled by a county Legislature or a weighted Board of Supervisors.

The Legislature has had it within its power to bring this issue to ballot. Legislators have refused to hear and act on this request. Fortunately, in 1980 we will not have to take up arms as our forefathers did.

We have Initiative and Referendum

in the county of Suffolk. Very shortly we will put this mechanism to the test. The proposed law has been prepared, petitions are being printed, and before the month is out we will make our presentation to the clerk of the Legislature. Our quest is to have this issue put on the ballot for your vote in November. The Legislature, itself, could save countless hours and allow more debate time by a simple resolution agreeing to have this issue put to a vote. We do not expect that body to act affirmatively, and therefore, we are going the petition route.

Make no mistake, this issue will appear on the ballot, God willing, in November, so the people, themselves, may decide how they wish to be ruled in the future.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"There was the matter of honor"

Dear Mr. Willmott:
History!

In Switzerland, when a businessman has sons old enough to manage the business, often they retire and go into Government service as an honor to their country.

In one town in Switzerland the citizens learned that they had a mayor who was putting government funds into his own pocket. A conference was held, and three individuals were appointed to make an official call upon the mayor, which they did, in full ceremony. At the mayor's office and before the mayor, they placed a neatly tied small box, then bowed and left. In the box was a gun.

There was the matter of honor!
What then, when you have lost the faith of your fellow citizens? Corruption!

It was said of Genhiz Kahn, the Mongol, that a virgin on horseback, with gold in her saddle bags, could traverse the whole realm without being molested. (But what one does know is how the Mongols behaved in their invasion of Persia. One has to equate history as to values.)

Yours truly,
Douglass Morse Howell
Member of Organization of American Historians
Riverhead

USPS 098-300

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Yes, There Is Police Brutality

The Suffolk County Bar Association recently released a report that at first reading would indicate the entire Suffolk County Police Department is guilty of police brutality.

With one brush, every cop from incoming officer to the commissioner has been charged and found guilty. There is no question that occasionally cops get over-enthusiastic, either verbally or physically. They are human beings operating in an incredible pressure cooker that makes it almost impossible to fulfill the duties of law enforcement.

The real brutality is in the laws governing the conduct of the cops. The real victim is the public the cops are trying to protect. Our laws today have been so twisted that criminal elements are better protected than those who try to live within the law and earn a decent and honest living. Rarely is a felon ever given time for the first crime he is caught and convicted of. Outside of premeditated, brutal assault or murder, the criminal normally gets probation.

According to statistics, rarely is the habitual criminal caught in the commission of his first offense. Some convicted burglars have more than 100 break-ins to their credit before they are nailed. The court has structured the laws today so cops

have both hands tied behind their back. It has restricted their avenues of normal investigation, set up incredible blocks against interrogation and designed legal loopholes through which the guilty can escape on technicalities. The cops are subject at every step to charges of misconduct.

This situation has led to a serious breakdown within law enforcement bureaus. Frustration is rampant on police departments. It's not uncommon for lawbreakers to scream police brutality when they are so much as handcuffed. There is no code the criminal must go by. Everything goes. He has no limits or restraints. He has everything in his favor. If he uses the law he can beat just about any rap. There is little question in our mind that some cops break under this frustration. What would you do if you've done your job, caught an offender red-handed, and yet he is using the law he holds in contempt to circumvent conviction?

Most cops we know are fiercely proud, they do a heck of a lot better job of cleaning their own house than the legal profession which is accusing the cops.

Yes, the investigation should center on why the cops have been so blatantly brutalized, while our society fails to condemn those who are doing the accusing. And why not?

What's So Bad With Entrapment?

Congressional leaders, the Eastern Liberal establishment, even Ralph Nader, the champion of the underdog cause, are incensed over the FBI's investigation called Abscam that nailed a host of congressmen and senators allegedly taking bribes.

Our American system of government and justice starts with the premise all people are honest. Those that have other inklings are confronted with a set of laws and penalties as guidelines to operate within. Leaders we elect to public office are expected to understand these guidelines. They're expected to be more careful in all their dealings because of the enormous amount of trust and power placed in their hands.

Personally, I am incensed at reading the Abscam reports. I naively hoped those who had made it to Congress would place themselves above taking bribes for favors rendered. The FBI's case, as reported so far, seems to be black and white. The congressmen allegedly were caught red-handed with their hands in the cookie jar. They were selling the trust the voters placed in them to a foreign interest for their own personal gain.

The FBI set up an elaborate system

complete with tape recorders and video tapes, marked bills and documentation of moves. The accused congressmen and their liberal supporters are crying this was entrapment. The FBI deliberately set up the circumstances under which the bribes were offered. What's wrong with that? A congressman or anyone else whose character, morals and ethics allow him to take a bribe is just as wrong whether the situation was set up by an enforcement bureau or happened through circumstances. A bribe is a bribe, and the taking of it is wrong under any circumstances.

We should feel relieved FBI officials had the guts and felt secure enough to take on the men who budget their existence and pay their livelihood. If Congress is for sale, those selling it should be driven out of office, ostracized and ruined. This country is too great, its people are too good to be treated so badly by cheap, shabby liars and thieves.

It makes no difference if they have Mr., Mrs., congressman or senator in front of their name. It's what they do that commands respect for the title. And why not?

Closing The Loophole

Political leaders almost always wield more power than elected officials.

Elected officials must conduct themselves within the confines of the laws setting their powers. Political officials aren't governed by law, but are free to sell favors for any price they can get. We have editorialized about the inadequacy of this system for more than 15 years. Recently the weakness of this system was graphically brought home during the trial of Smithtown Republican Leader Nicholas Barbados.

Suffolk County District Attorney Patrick Henry has announced he would seek legislation making it a criminal matter for a political leader to sell influence. Last week, he submitted a proposal to the state Legislature. James Lack, senator from the Huntington-Smithtown area, has introduced the legislation in the Senate. Similar legislation will be

introduced into the Assembly. The common sense of this law should make its passage imperative.

However, we doubt this legislation will ever reach the governor's desk during this session. Most assemblymen and senators are where they are by the grace of their political leaders. Most political leaders do not want to lose the freedom to sell their favors. They will fight this law. Many political leaders have risen up from obscure poverty to become multi-millionaires by operating within this loophole and blatantly selling the influence they have over elected officials.

If New York State wants to clean up its act, its Assembly and Senate must show courage and pass this legislation.

There can be no question this law is long overdue and needed statewide. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"Form their own county"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The people on the East End of Suffolk County are greatly mistaken if they think the county will return to the form of government it had twenty years ago.

The old Board of Supervisors had in its membership one supervisor representing his respective town, which was unconstitutional, so said the New York State Court of Appeals in 1965 in upholding an earlier U.S. Supreme Court decision.

In view that this country is a democracy with the ideal of one man - one vote, the old Board of Supervisors just doesn't meet the qualification to represent this view. In realistic terms the old Board of Supervisors gave representative from Shelter Island (with a population of 1,600) an equal say as the supervisor of Smithtown who represents 114,000 people.

The argument of weighted voting is just as feudal. The concepts of weighted voting is quite simple, if one can understand the mathematics behind it.

Let us use an example: Let's say the total amount of votes available to the Board of Supervisor is 200, with 101 votes constituting a majority. Those 200 votes are divided in this manner because Babylon has 26 percent of the Suffolk County population the Supervisor of Babylon would be given 26 percent of those 200 votes to cast on any legislative proposal. The Supervisor of Huntington would be given 20 percent of those 200 votes because the town has 20 percent of Suffolk County population. The same would apply to the Smithtown

Supervisor who would control about 15 percent of those 200 votes. It's quite clear that these three supervisors would have between them about 61 percent of those 200 votes within their possession, enough to pass or kill any proposal brought before the 10 members of the Board of Supervisors. That is a lot of power in the hands of just three men in this county. Shelter Island, by the way, would receive about 1 percent of those 200 votes because of its low population of 1,600. In fact, the five eastern towns would not receive enough weighted votes to stop a veto overridden by the five western towns.

The East End must face facts. It is not the size or tax base that matters when it comes to equal representation in any of our country's forms of government: it's population that counts. And as long as the East End continues to discourage industries and people from moving here because of the high cost of living, as long as it prevents moderate income housing to be built forcing the great majority of the locals to seek employment and housing elsewhere - then it must live with its low population figure and it cannot expect to have equal representation as the five western towns that have two-thirds of the county's population.

The only way out is for the five eastern towns to form their own county and that would be even more disastrous to the local population, let alone the small business person.

Joseph & Julie Delgado
East Hampton

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You Should Be Involved

This week we honor two of America's best-loved Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Washington, of course, is credited with being the Father of our Country. Lincoln is best known for his stands which led to the freeing of slaves. The one thing both men had in common with each other and every other president was their care, their concern and their involvement with the democratic process under which our country is run.

Few of us have the attributes to make it to this seat of power as president. But, all of us have not only the right, but the responsibility to become involved and to take part in government. All of our governments, from town to federal, start with the committees of the political parties. Committeemen, in essence, are the foundation and the building blocks of our democracy. A committeeman's responsibility is to know the constituents, their feelings, their beliefs and to be their representative of the town committee of their political party. Town leaders who are the chairmen serve as representatives on the county committee. All committeemen serve at the pleasure of the county leader.

Many people, although they wish to be involved, don't understand how they can become a committeeman. There are two routes: Every year there is an election for either Democratic or Republican committeemen seats. You run in a primary to become a committeeman

from your district or another district in the town. The other way is to be appointed to this position. During the year, many committeemen resign because they are moving or for other reasons. The county leader can designate someone to fill that term. Leaders in both parties have vacancies that go unfilled. They do not have candidates for these positions.

This year we will elect a president, a congressman, assemblyman and state senator, as well as fill other offices. How would you like to play a direct part in selecting the candidates who will run these offices? You can if you are a committeeman.

If you are registered with a political party, you are eligible. Don't you owe it to yourself and your family to take an active part in our political process? Shouldn't you be a committeeman?

Why not fill out the form below and send it to your county leader? We encourage you to let him know you are interested. He should then contact you to discuss your qualifications and motives.

Fill out the form today and send it to the proper party. Be involved -- it's worth the effort.

And why not?

Leaders are: (Democratic) Dominic Baranello, 1021 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787; (Republican) Anthony Prudenti, 971 Montauk Hwy., Shirley, N.Y. 11967; and (Conservative) John Kay, 1 Berrywood Drive, Huntington, N.Y. 11743.

Mr. Chairman:

I am interested in learning about how I can become a committeeman in our party.

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____

Election District: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Gun Controls Won't Work

Recently we heard a television report concerning violent crimes in New York. Every 14 minutes, someone is shot. There are more than four killings per day with some firearm.

First reaction would be we should regulate guns, take them out of the hands of people. Although this reaction is natural, it is false. New York City has the most stringent gun control law in the nation -- the Sullivan Law. It has not kept guns out of the hands of the wrong people. In fact, just the opposite has occurred. The criminal element, the riff-raff, the irresponsible are well-armed. Citizens, business people who might have a legitimate reason to own a gun, are unarmed. To become armed they need to go through layers of bureaucracy and regulations. The end result in the City of New York is that the criminal element is armed; some otherwise law-abiding citizens are armed illegally, and the city has one of the highest rates for armed robbery and assaults with firearms in the nation. The Sullivan Law just does not work.

There are a number of bills presently in Albany to further tighten controls on firearms. They will not work either. Those wishing to be armed will find a source. What these

laws do is make it extremely difficult for honest citizens who are guaranteed their rights under the constitution to bear arms.

We have fooled around with regulations concerning firearms for years. Doesn't it make more sense to give courses in our high schools to all students, teaching them how to handle guns safely? Suffolk Life strongly advocates the citizens' rights to have and to bear arms and to use them in protection of themselves and their property.

The criminal element that has permeated our society has assumed this right for itself. They need no licenses, as they consider themselves above the law. They know the public is unarmed, therefore, easy pickings. If the criminal element knew there was a good chance they would be "looking down the barrel" at an armed citizen, they might think twice.

Additional regulations will not protect a citizen from himself. Additional regulations will not eliminate guns from the criminal element of our society. Additional regulations may, on the surface, appease some of the liberals but will not accomplish a worthwhile purpose.

Educate the public, don't regulate them.

And why not?

A License Is A Tax

A week ago, Long Island's Coastal Zone Management Plan was released to the public. One of the most controversial items was the call for salt water fishing licenses.

Presently, to fish in fresh water you must obtain a license from the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Control. To fish for salt water species, no license is required.

Licensing leads to bureaucracy, rules and regulations that are always costly and often hampers the licensee.

Salt water fishing is one of the few things left in this world a person can do free. Whether you are a bridge fisherman, a rowboat renter or an offshore sport fisherman, to pursue this sport you only need equipment and the desire. One of the joys of salt water fishing is not having big brother look over your shoulder. You don't have the pressures of conforming to bureaucratic regulations and fears that somehow you might be breaking an idiotic law.

Salt water fishing licenses are more ridiculous, especially here on Long Island where three states border New York. That conceivably would require a fisherman to be licensed by all four states.

Advocates of a licensing system claim monies are needed to manage the fisheries. The only way these

monies can be raised is through a tax imposed by licenses. More than a decade ago, we listened to the same argument in relation to the state running a lottery. All funds raised by the lottery were to go for education. This is what we were told, this is what we expected. The lottery was passed. And, by the stroke of a pen, revenues supposed to go to schools went into the general fund.

Currently, sportsmen are taxed through licenses for fresh water fishing and small game and big game hunting and trapping. Millions of dollars are raised through the sale of these licenses. Hundreds of thousands are purchased by Long Islanders, yet only a small fraction of those contributions ever finds its way back to Long Island. Our tax license dollars go to pay for boat ramps, fish hatcheries at controlled hunting areas, which happen to be located upstate in most cases.

There is no guarantee, there can be no guarantee, that monies raised through the sale of salt water licenses would ever be used to enhance salt water fisheries around Long Island. Some things in life are best left alone. The freedom to fish is one of them.

Let the bureaucracy find some other way to tax us.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I think something should be done to protect our trees, especially the oak trees which are being used for firewood. For how will our wildlife be able to survive without them? And

also, our environment.

Thank you,
Peter Bouhouris
Shirley

USPS 098-300

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Full Use of Public Lands

Last year, New York State took over the former RCA properties in Rocky Point and Riverhead. They have been dubbed the Pine Barrens, giving them something akin to ecological value.

In reality, they are a great mass of undeveloped scrub oak and pine with only a fraction of the ecological value of hard woodlands and waterfront. Environmentalists heralded this acquisition as the savior of Long Island's fresh water supplies. Prior to this, we had been told the major source of Long Island's fresh water came from three underground sources: one located on the north shore around the Jamesport-Laurel area, the second in the area of Selden-Coram, and a third in the vicinity of Levittown.

All these sites are a good distance from the former RCA properties. Those properties have been used for years as assorted recreational sites

and are ideally suited for this purpose. They have been used not only by nature lovers, but hunters, horseback riders and motorcyclists. One area in particular, in Rocky Point, a tract approximately twenty-five acres, has been a favorite site of motocross enthusiasts.

Recently, this group applied for a legal permit to continue using this land. Environmentalists have objected that pursuit of this sport is an improper use of these lands. What they are saying is someone else's sport might interfere with their's, and should be banned.

We hope the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which controls these lands, puts aside selfish objections and approves the motocross application as well as open the lands for full use by all New York State residents.

And why not?

education: reading, writing and arithmetic.

Shoreham-Wading River is not alone. You only have to attend a school board meeting to begin to understand how we have become the highest taxed area in the country for education.

Just recently we attended a school board meeting in Riverhead. The administrator wanted to increase the number of hours the district contracted for a reading specialist. Currently, it used this specialist three days a year. The superintendent recommended 20. Not one board member in approving this request asked what affect it would have on school district taxes. Not one board member asked for cold, hard documentation as to what this increase would produce. The reading specialist, by the way, is costing the district more than \$80 per hour, based on a five-hour school day. It's time our school boards had a good

representation of people who are business oriented, who will ask hard-nosed business questions and not blindly follow administrative requests.

School boards should be made up of people from every aspect of the community -- business and labor, professionals and uneducated, young and old. We are spending more than half our local real estate tax dollars on education. The community as a whole should be involved in how and why these funds are spent.

The only qualifications needed to be a board member is that you be registered to vote in the school district and have a legitimate desire to serve.

Shouldn't you consider running for school board? You may not be an educator, you may not even be interested in education, but you should be interested in the taxes you pay and how they are being spent.

And why not?

Why Should We Pay for the Cities?

Gov. Hugh Carey has presented a new transportation tax package that must have been designed by some city slicker who never ventured out of the five boroughs.

The plan includes a host of new taxes on automobile owners and their vehicles. The taxes are to be used to make up the shortfalls being created by the Metropolitan Transit Authority in subsidizing the city's subway and train systems.

What's so sacred about preserving the 50-cent subway fare? What's so sacred about preserving commuter rail fares? Why should those of us who live outside the metropolitan area, where there is no viable mass transportation system, subsidize those who live and work in the city? Those of us who live outside the metropolitan area earn less money doing comparable work than our city counterparts. Our only method of transportation is the automobile.

Most of us who live and work here on Long Island have to travel 10 to 20 miles each way to find employment. Less than six years ago we were paying 30 to 35 cents a gallon for gasoline. Today, we are paying up to \$1.45. Our transportation costs have risen more than 400 percent, yet we see no hue and cry coming from the governor's office to aid us in our plight. During the last six years subway fares have been maintained

at 50 cents. Why haven't they gone up to \$2, with any excess profit used to subsidize our gas costs?

Let's face facts -- we are captives of the automobile. We can't do without it. We need it to get to work, to shop, and to just plain survive in the suburbs. We are sick and tired of scatter-brained liberals like Carey and his aides who know they have us in a box attempting to squeeze us even further by proposing new and more outrageous taxes on our sole method of transportation.

There are darn few people in the suburbs who haven't cut down on their driving, willingly eliminated wasteful use of their automobiles, voluntarily cut back on their speeds. Also not so unwillingly, they've given up investments in big cars to reinvest in uncomfortable, but more economical, smaller autos. If we can find ways to stretch our budget to accommodate the 400 percent increase in the cost of transportation, then our counterparts in the city will just have to dig deeper to pay their actual cost for being transported by buses and subways.

If Carey has any idea of running for re-election, he should be shaking in his boots, as are all suburban Democratic senators, and not force suburbia to subsidize city transportation.

Cliff dwellers have an option of using mass transportation or an automobile. There isn't any logical reason why mass transportation should be subsidized at the expense of individual transportation. Those of us who must depend upon cars not only pay our own way, but we pay taxes on the fuel we use. That pays for roads, plus a host of socialized schemes.

Carey better start thinking in terms of the suburbs, or he will be looking for a job after the next gubernatorial election. In the meantime, if he keeps submitting proposals like this, suburbanites won't have any choice but to elect a solid delegation of Republicans to the Assembly and Senate, in self-defense.

And why not?

Run for School Board

In a little over two months, most school districts will reorganize. Voters will ballot on school board members.

Traditionally, school board seats have been held by totally pro-educational individuals, mostly chosen from the intellectual community because of their desire to enhance educational facilities available in the community. During the past two decades, school boards have chosen to increase the burden of school taxes to such a degree they have come close to bankrupting Long Island communities.

Little consideration has been given to taxpayers' ability to fund expenditures approved by the board. The feeling has been that voters can always turn the budget down and the school can turn to an austerity budget. This misconception has led to Long Island school districts having the highest taxes in the nation, while concurrently producing an educational product below the national norm.

An austerity budget is not a bottom-line one. Austerity budgets are filled with a host of extras not mandated or required by the state. Not including such extras is one reason private schools on Long Island can educate students for an average of \$600 per year while public schools must spend more than \$3,000 per student to obtain inferior results. Both private and public schools operate under the same state mandates. Private schools, by financial necessity, eliminate many of the extras and frills, concentrating on the basics.

The best example of this we can give is the Shoreham-Wading River School District which spends more than \$6,000 per year to educate their students. Rocky Point, a neighboring

district, spends under \$2,800. St. John's in Riverhead, which borders on Shoreham-Wading River, spends less than \$600. The students of Rocky Point and St. John's are reading and doing higher level mathematics than students of Shoreham-Wading River.

We are sending our kids to school to learn to read and write. This is the real purpose of education.

Shoreham-Wading River, although spending 10 times what it costs to educate a student at St. John's private school and about 2½ times what it costs to educate a student at Rocky Point, is producing an inferior product.

The real difference in the educational product is the school board. In Shoreham-Wading River, the biggest chunk of taxes is being picked up by LILCO's nuclear generating plant. The school board, knowing this, has entered into a program of providing all the extras and frills that can be imagined. And, while wasting taxpayer dollars on these, have neglected the basics of

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