

Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Tenure Promotes Problems

We have voiced from time to time our concerns over the tenure system in our school districts which affords virtual lifetime protection to our teachers, both good and bad. Those concerns have been based on a strong belief that tenure protects too many incompetent teachers. A recent happening reinforces that belief.

A mother whose child attends a third grade class in a western Suffolk school district called this newspaper to voice concern with the happenings in that classroom, and frustration over her attempts to have the matter resolved or her child transferred to another teacher. "It's a very difficult problem to resolve ... you must have patience ... we must follow procedures," she was told time and again. The problem, she reported, was the teacher maintained discipline through force: squeezing arms, necks, pulling hair, kicks and curses. The effect on the children, she said, included tears, fear about going to school, and numerous "sicknesses" to keep from having to go to class.

Members of the administration admitted there was a problem, insisted they "were on top of it" and

could do nothing until they could obtain enough documentation before going through the hearing procedures required by tenure law.

We're happy to say the problem is now resolved, the teacher is out of the classroom and the children will be spared further instances of such actions. That solution came because the board of education, which had not been informed of the matter, became involved and prompted swifter action by the administration.

The problem here, of course, is not only the tenure laws which create a monumental procedure system before such problems can be resolved, but also an unresponsive administration intimidated by that tenure system. And meanwhile, the children suffer.

It is time tenure is given careful scrutiny. It is bad enough it protects those in our teacher ranks who short-change their students educationally. But when it prevents the swift removal from classrooms of teachers whose actions have a traumatic effect upon the emotional lives of students, change is desperately needed.

And why not?

charter organizations which make the Scouting program possible here in Suffolk County. Our only wish is that there would be more who would give of themselves and of their time to

help give "the better life" to more of our youths, who would most certainly benefit from the experience.

And why not?

Political Ghosts

Political ghosts from the Suffolk Republican Party's troubled past came out of the back rooms in which they have been meeting in recent months to issue a call for the resignation of Suffolk County GOP Chairman Anthony Prudenti.

Those ghosts met late last week at a West Islip restaurant with sympathizing Republican officials to discuss reasons for their discontent with the current leadership. Prudenti, they charge, has failed to "unify the party," has fired some Republicans and appointed defeated Democrats to county jobs.

Former Brookhaven Town Leader Richard Zeidler, whose name appeared frequently in the headlines of the party's troubled past, explained his presence by saying, "I'm a Republican ... and I see some things happening in government that I don't like." To which a lot of rank and file Republicans will undoubtedly say, "Thank heavens for that."

Former County GOP Chairman Gil Hanse, who Prudenti replaced, was among the diners and, in fact, was the author of the statement calling for Prudenti's resignation. Former Presiding Officer of the county legislature, Anthony Noto, who was ousted from that position through a coalition effort by Republicans and

Democrats alike, also was present, as were those from legislative ranks reportedly supportive of Noto during his efforts to become the major power in county government.

Prudenti summed up his views on the matter with this comment: "The Republican electorate will have to decide whether they want the new Republicans or go back to the Old Guard." Reviewing the balloting by rank and file Republicans in recent times, it would appear their answer already has been given. The back room politics of yesteryear, the thrusts for power, and the abuse of public office brought the Republican Party to its knees. New faces are now in key positions, a new era of government and of politics has brought hope that good, concerned government rather than self-enrichment policies as were practiced during the days of the past, reflect the top priority of those who now lead.

We have no doubts that Suffolk County Republicans have had their fill of the headlines citing corruption and indictments that were so prevalent during the troubled days of the past. We are confident they will reject the efforts of the political ghosts who now seek resurrection.

And why not?

Tribute to Scouting

The week of Feb. 8-14 will have a very special meaning for some 19,000 youths throughout Suffolk County and millions more throughout our land with the celebration of Scouting Anniversary Week, marking the 71st year of Scouting activity in America. The theme of this year's celebration is: "Scouting ... the Better Life;" and indeed, it is.

Since the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on Feb. 8, 1910, more than 60 million Americans have been registered in some aspect of Scouting. As of Dec. 29, 1979 registration totalled approximately 1.7 million Cub Scouts (ages 8-10), 1 million Boy Scouts (ages 11-17), 401,000 Explorers (ages 15-20), and 1.1 million adult volunteers.

It is not difficult to pay tribute to the Scouting organization for it has had a meaningful impact on the lives of millions of our youths, guiding them

through their formational years to have respect for others, emphasizing the value of truth and honor, and leading them into wholesome, better lives.

Tribute also must be offered to the more than 6,000 men and women who serve as volunteers in all phases of the Scouting program throughout the county. It is they who make it happen. The hours they devote to Scouting make possible the activities of some 265 Cub Scout Packs, 250 Scout Troops and 45 Explorer Posts now active in Suffolk County. Add to that list some 370 community organizations who support the program by chartering troops and posts. Without these volunteers and community organizations, Scouting would not exist, and our youths would be denied this opportunity.

We offer our congratulations to the Scouts, the adult volunteers and the

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I'm tired of reading about welfare, that people on it live like kings and queens. Here's my story:

I was forced to go on welfare when I got my divorce. The courts never pushed payments from my husband like they said they would do in my divorce papers. Welfare then made me sign over to them my belongings such as property, house; in return I got \$401 a month - \$295 for rent, \$65 for electric, about \$67 in food stamps. Also, they do not pay all medical bills. I have right now a \$122.25 medical bill I have to pay and I have a medical card.

I have to pay the taxes for the property that I had to sign over to welfare, which I'm going to lose. I also lost my car, a 1965 beat-up car. Now once you're on welfare you can't get off.

If welfare gets you a job you work off your grant, so therefore, you're still on welfare. They should make a law:

1. Make husbands and fathers pay or go to jail for support.
2. Welfare shouldn't take people's belongings. Why? Example: Now if I could sell my property I could get off welfare and start a new life for my daughter and myself. I could go on and on about welfare. I have seen people eat dog food because of welfare. Now tell the people the truth about welfare.

Clean up welfare, I say. Get after the fathers and demand payments or have them go to jail. When people get divorces make them stick. Not when they get out they go to family court to get out of their demands. Make family court harder, not easy. So many men take their wives to family court to get off easy. I know, I was there already.

Jean Raynor
Patchogue

flat tire, I skidded off the road between Sunrise Highway and County Road 51. These thoughtful but anonymous people included the lovely woman who stayed with me until I got back on the road, the young man from the lumber yard who took his coffee break by digging me out of a muddy embankment, and changing my tire, and the young woman who drove me home after my car broke down for a second time on County Road 51. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Ward
Calverton

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It's with extreme delight and with a great deal of party pride that I have recently learned that the Town of Riverhead's Democratic Chairman publicly has mentioned the most qualified town-wide candidates for local offices are to be found in the Republican Party. So it is not surprising that the Democrats have begun to solicit help from the GOP, and have asked several registered Republicans to consider running on the Democratic line come November.

To Mr. Tomlinson: I certainly share your feelings concerning the quality of candidates in the Town of Riverhead. The very best are to be found within the Republican Party and those that appear on the Republican line on Nov. 3, 1981 will have my support and the support of every concerned taxpayer who is working together for a "Better Riverhead" -- for their families, for their neighbors, and for fellow citizens throughout the town.

Mr. Tomlinson, I've been telling you the very same thing for many years -- I'm happy that you have finally decided that "yes," the most qualified candidates are indeed Republicans.

Warm regards,
Gene Reyer

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am writing to thank all those people who generously gave of their time and selves to aid myself and my daughter when, due to a

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 27

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centersuch

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of
192,000 Circulation Weekly

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, 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

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Bob Andrews - Sales Coordinator
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughy - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County, \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County, \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales, 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.95 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 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.

Paying for Educational Mandates

During our interviews last fall with the various candidates for state legislative office, the funding of education was a recurrent theme. Virgin candidates expressed their alarm at the burden placed on real estate, which amounts to 60 percent to 70 percent of local real estate tax bills. These candidates were nearly universal in their enthusiasm to explore the transfer of this burden from real estate to income. Some even suggested the enactment of a regional income tax.

Currently, New York's state government pays approximately 40 percent of the cost of local education through state aid. The balance of the educational cost is made up through real estate taxes. When citizens and taxpayers go to their annual school budget meetings, the administration of the school board traditionally announce to the gathering that 85 percent or 90 percent of the expenditures projected for the coming year are mandated expenditures. This is a half-truth.

The basic education package that details the standard education every district is mandated to offer all students amounts to only 40 percent of the budget. The items covered by this basic mandate are the same items all schools, whether private or parochial, must offer in the State of New York. These cover fundamental subjects such as reading, writing, arithmetic, social studies, health, gym, basic science and other courses.

The 40 percent state aid provided by Albany covers the basic mandates of the state Education Department. The other 60 percent of the budget is electives, selected by the local school board as recommended by the administration. Once these extras are added to the curriculum, how they are offered and under what circumstances are subject to state mandate. Thus, the school board can, in half-truth, say that 90 percent of its budget is covered by mandates.

The 10 percent not covered by mandates are the things school boards use as a club to force voters to accept their budgets. These are sports programs, lunches, busing within the

mile and one-half state limit, replacement of books and supplies.

Suffolk Life has long been an advocate of the philosophy that what the state mandates, the state pays for. According to Sen. Kenneth LaValle, the state does pay for the basic educational program it mandates. The electives selected by the school board, the additional curriculum that is offered -- constituting 60 percent of the local real estate tax burden -- these things the state does not pay for.

LaValle maintains this situation is at the discretion of the school boards and is a reflection of the will and the determination of the local voters and taxpayers. This in part answers the question of how private and parochial schools can educate students better at one-sixth the cost of public schools.

Three years ago an investigation revealed that the cost of educating a private or parochial school student on Long Island averaged \$600, while the cost of educating a counterpart in the public school system averaged over \$3,000. Private and parochial schools tend to concentrate on the basics. The time a student spends in school is invested in learning how to read and write, or studying science, math, social studies and English. The curriculum is set up so there is little time for the extras. It has been charged that these extras make for a rounded education but tend to take away from the basic concepts.

Many school boards are in the process of formulating their budgets for the coming year. If they follow tradition, they will increase the burden on local taxpayers by five percent to 20 percent. School boards have, in the past, not taken into consideration the taxpayers' ability to fund their extravagance. The need, as they perceive it, for a well-rounded quality education is more imperative than the local homeowners' ability to continue to live in his own home or the local businesses' need for a profit to continue to maintain the employment opportunities they offer.

We strongly recommend that homeowners beseege their local school boards, imploring them to realign their educational programs

by eliminating and cutting those electives and extras so all who desire it can receive a quality, basic education and the taxpayers can continue to live in this area. Our state legislature should consider seriously passing legislation whereby the basic state mandates of education which they are funding automatically are accepted. All other electives as

selected by the school board become issues to be voted on, on a line-by-line basis. Passage of such legislation would guarantee that New York State students receive a quality basic education while at the same time returning to the voters the local ability to determine the quantity and the funding of a greater portion of the school budget. And why not?

An Export Tax on Food

President Ronald Reagan, as a candidate, pledged to the Midwestern farmers that he would eliminate the grain embargo imposed upon Russia. The grain embargo placed on Russia in retaliation to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan has caused serious disruption in the Russian way of life. It has been effective in toning down their aggression and has put us in a better bargaining position.

Reagan is now caught on the horns of a dilemma. Russia needs our surplus grains and food products. They just had another bad year agriculturally. Our agricultural interests want new and expanded markets and Reagan is pledged to providing them. We badly need export markets in order to balance our

payment because of the huge increases imposed by the oil cartel and our dependency on foreign oil.

Reagan should allow the Russians to buy our surplus grain but make this grain subject to a healthy export tax. Here is a way we can restore our balance of payments, develop huge new needed tax revenues without taxing Americans, and still keep his commitment to the Midwest farmers.

Why shouldn't we use our natural asset, our ability to produce food, the way the Arabs and the Venezuelans have used oil?

Our assets are in producing food. Let us use this to counterbalance our weakness, our dependency on foreign oil. And why not?

Welfare South American Style

On a recent trip to South America, we inquired about the local welfare system. In a number of countries, the answer to our inquiry was the same: "We have no welfare." "There is a job for everybody who wants to work. If you don't work, you don't eat." When asked about Aid to Dependent Children, again, the answer was universal: "We take care of the children who legitimately have no father." "A woman who is husbandless cannot receive aid if she receives visitors in the dark." "She never knows when El Social Worker will be sleeping under her bed." "Mary's was the only Immaculate Conception." "A man creates a child, he is responsible for paying." "Old people (over 60) have state housing

and their social security pays for the rest."

When we first heard their comments we thought it might be an isolated example, limited to just one or two nations. But instead, it turned out to be the rule throughout South America.

South Americans in general appear to be far more religious than Americans. The teachings of their churches demand compassion and responsibility for those who have less than they. Yet they have a welfare system that does not strap the working class yet still provides for the legitimate needs of those less fortunate. Maybe we should take some lessons from our brothers to the South. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"We are deeply indebted"

Open Letter:

On Dec. 17, 1980 the nursing staff of the Dominican Sisters Family Health Service hosted a party, funded by Catholic Charities, for patients at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Hampton Bays.

We would like to give a public thank-you for all who helped us make the day such an outstanding success: the volunteers who cooked, served and cleaned up from the Charity in Action, Sewing Ladies and Op Shoppe groups, O-Shea's Florist and Valarie Scott for the table decorations, Hampton Arrow Laundry for the tablecloths, Mrs. Dwyer's 6th grade Glee Club from Hampton Bays Elementary School for the delightful entertainment, and Father Dan Harris for the use of the hall.

We are deeply indebted to the Hampton Jitney and Peconic Ambulance for transportation of patients from Sag Harbor through Southampton area and the Hampton Coach for the local pickups. The following banks sent us generous contributions for transportation: Bank of New York, Hampton Bays; Bridgehampton National Bank; Chemical Bank, Sag Harbor; European American, Southampton; Marine Midland, Hampton Bays; North Fork Bank and Trust, Southampton; and Sag Harbor Savings.

It is due to the generosity of all these people that about a hundred patients had a Christmas party and more than 35 dinners were prepared and delivered to the homebound that could not attend.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Stewart
Dominican Sisters Family Health Service Inc.
Hampton Bays

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

and Suffolk County Life
NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 28

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of 192,000 Circulation Weekly

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip; Town of Riverhead; Town of Brookhaven; Village of Port Jefferson.

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher
John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Bob Andrews - Sales Coordinator
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County; \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County; \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 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.

Get Prudenti

One of the first things Suffolk County Republican Leader Anthony Prudenti did upon assuming office was to place above his desk a plaque on which was inscribed, "Good politics makes for good government. Good government makes for good politics." Thus began the era of New Republicanism in Suffolk County. Suffolk County Executive Peter Cohalan has a similar plaque in his office.

Cohalan and Prudenti rose to prominence together. Their meteoric rise was not only because of their abilities, but because of the disgust of registered Republicans throughout the county with the old leadership.

The old guard within the party had brought the organization and the officials it had elected to its knees through its greed and corruption. Even though the Republican organization had been successful in raising millions of dollars in contributions, the organization was broke. Where the funds had gone no one seemed to know -- or if they did, they weren't talking. The organization's biggest asset, the 19-acre estate which serves as its Blue Point headquarters, was heavily mortgaged, in the throes of foreclosure and close to being lost for the three years' unpaid taxes. Committeemen, the foundation of any political organization, were seldom communicated with. Town leaders were undisciplined, going in 10 different directions. The Republican Party was quickly becoming the third party in the county.

Cohalan and Prudenti were pledged to returning integrity, honesty and respect to county government and county Republican politics. Both men are gentlemen. Upon election to their respective seats they let it be known they would forgive and forget. They were willing to work with those who had been there before them if they agreed to subscribe to simple principles based upon fairness, honesty and personal ethics.

This was a serious mistake. They should have killed the old guard, nailed its coffin shut, exiled its members to oblivion and made sure they were never heard from again.

Recently a coalition of rejected political hacks and dethroned elected officials gathered together to unseat Prudenti. They can't stand the idea of

an honest Republican Party and we suspect they are terribly upset that they are no longer able to stick their dirty fingers into the pie and enrich themselves in the special interests they have always taken care of.

Their strongest charge is Prudenti has split the party. He has failed to unify all the factions. That is absolutely true. Prudenti has told those of the old guard they are not wanted unless they can behave and personally subscribe to a code of honor, integrity and ethics. This they refuse to adhere to and thus, the fight.

Cohalan subscribes to the theory that there are good people in public service from both sides of the aisle. When he ran for county executive he pledged to appoint people to jobs based upon their qualifications rather than their politics.

Cohalan has appointed some outstanding Democrats to executive positions within his office. To the likes of Gil Hanse, the ousted county leader, and others of his ilk, this is bad government and bad politics. Hanse has demonstrated he believes the public should not have the best qualified people unless they happen to be registered Republicans. He believes it's better to have a controllable Republican than an honest Democrat. Of course, we all know what Hanse did when he had an opportunity to do good for the county and party. His philosophy is a travesty to the people pledged to good government.

It is about time that Cohalan and Prudenti stop being gentlemen. They should open up the whole can of worms and let the public, and particularly the rank and file of the party, know who got what and how in the past, and why the old crowd is so desperate to regain control. It won't be a pretty picture.

We suspect it will reveal a startling pattern of corruption, corruption not only in the government, but within the party. There is no honor amongst thieves. Given the chance, they will steal even from each other.

Prudenti probably is not the absolute answer, but he is heads and tails above any of his accused.

He became leader with relatively limited political experience when compared with some of the old guard. What he brought to the job was a sense of morality, honesty and an

absolute dedication. He has worked night and day to rebuild the Republican Party. The threat of foreclosure is past. Although the organization is far from solvent, Prudenti has worked out a system of repayment of the organization's debts.

Prudenti has been successful in raising substantial funds without having to give away the keys to the county. These funds have gone directly into the organization's coffers without having to be laundered first. Prudenti has been able to restore credibility to the Republican organization. Hundreds of registered Republicans without their heads in the trough have been appointed committeemen. Seekers of office can

The Doctors Defend Themselves:

"What research had you done?"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Dave, in your "Physician, Heal Thyself" editorial (January 28, 1981) you appear to have lost confidence in the American medical profession. You would like to stop the clock and bring medical care back to the good old times when doctors were family friends and made house calls. However, Dave, please realize that in the "good old days" that was about all the doctor had to offer - his presence. The longevity of the average American citizen has increased by about 17 percent since 1950 despite the reduction in house calls. We live in an era of Intensive Care and Cardiac Units (superbly equipped), hospital resuscitation teams, defibrillators and even cardiac pacemakers. I regret to say that the doctor with his little black bag on a friendly emergency house call could represent a loss of precious time rather than good medical care, which so often determines the difference between life and death.

Again, in those "grand old days" the concept of malpractice had not been invented. It was accepted then that the doctor tried his or her best and if the patient died, it was the "Will of God." Today, poor results of medical care are automatically blamed on the doctor, and multi-million dollar malpractice suits are as common as dandruff. How can a surgeon who must pay up to \$30,000 per year for malpractice insurance charge low fees when one out of every five doctors are sued yearly? Can you really blame doctors for considering patients more as potential litigators rather than family friends?

In the third paragraph of your editorial you unfortunately resorted to statistical juggling. You must know that Medicare, not Medicaid, is funded by our Social Security taxes. You state that 20 percent of every dollar earned by an individual goes to support Medicare. If I may correct this inaccuracy, 20 percent of every dollar goes to support the Social Security system, of which a relatively small percentage is allotted to sustain Medicare.

"A system that . . . improves itself"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your recent editorial, "Physician, Heal Thyself" has stemmed from "emotional and financial strain" and has led you to many "false conclusions," just as you said. Most physicians practice medicine on the public's side, just as most firemen, most nurses, most government officials, and most policemen do their jobs. There are always exceptions.

Health delivery, like all other services and commodities, by its very nature, must be centralized to some extent, just as are grocery stores, gas stations and many other necessary components of your daily life that you would like to have in your backyard. Only God has a monopoly on living and dying. Physicians require sophisticated tests and machines and nurses and other ancillary help to effectively treat most urgent problems today. It is simply cost prohibitive to place these machines and personnel in each doctor's hands or in everyone's backyard at all times.

During the period of time that I served as an emergency room physician, out of the several hundred people I saw each week at all hours of the day or night, we averaged only one or two actually urgent medical problems per week.

go before screening committees and seek out elected positions without having to place their souls in the hands of the elite.

Last year, candidates for office found there was an organization and funds available to run intelligent races, something that had not been there for several years. Prudenti has gained an excellent reputation for being fair, honest and a hard worker. Republicans who are being approached by the likes of Gil Hanse, Dick Zeidler, Tony Noto and company should be suspicious. They should ask, "Are you seeking the leadership for the good of the Republican Party, for the good of Suffolk County, or for your own personal, selfish reasons?" And why not?

And may I add that the skyrocketing costs to third party carriers, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross, etc. is not due to increasing doctor fees but to the cost of hospitalization which consumes over 95 percent of each dollar disbursed. Less than 5 percent goes to patients who subsidize their doctor fees.

As for your recently acquired advocacy of socialized medicine, may I ask what research had you done in regard prior to publishing "Physician, Heal Thyself?" Apparently none. Let me briefly educate you. Australia in 1977 mandated through Parliament its socialized medicine system. It abruptly abandoned it six months ago leaving medical care in that country in total chaos. England has had its system in effect since 1947. Now millions of Britains have purchased private medical insurance to assure proper and prompt medical care. The reason . . . such essential therapy as kidney dialysis, insertion of cardiac pacemakers, total hip replacements, etc. are severely rationed with waits of over a year or even more being the norm. I must wonder how many Britains suffer excruciating pain, total incapacitating illnesses or even die during their "agony in the garden" of socialized medicine.

And yes, Dave, doctors do have a monopoly on living and dying -- that is what our profession is all about. But then the plumber has the monopoly on burst pipes, the storekeeper on the sale of cigarettes, General Motors on the sale of Cadillacs, and even publishers of newspapers and magazines on what the public reads.

As an Irish-born American citizen, I accept your freedom to publish your editorials. I appreciate even more my freedom to submit and have published this rebuttal.

Seamus Lynch, M.D.
Chairman, N.Y.S. Guild of Physicians & Surgeons
President, N.Y.S. Federation of Anesthesiologists
Riverhead

Despite the fact most medical problems are not urgent, medical attention is available from competent and interested doctors 24 hours a day for any medical problem, even in this last area of natural Long Island in which we live.

It is not true that, "No country has yet been ruined by expenses incurred in protecting the public health." Not only have the countries which have adopted socialized medicine succumbed to financial ruin, but the quantity of quality medicine delivered in these countries has declined when you consider how many of their population actually get to receive optimum care. A man I knew in Italy waited four years for his non-urgent hernia repair.

Before you advocate destroying a medical system that has developed the most advanced state of the art of medical technology, the healthiest population of any country on earth, and a system that constantly improves and corrects itself in the public interest, become better informed about the problems we are trying to overcome to deliver health to you.

Sincerely,
Frank Parasmo, M.D.
Mattituck

continued on following pages

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 29

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of
192,000 Circulation Weekly

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Brookhaven
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton;
Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point
School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk
County Life published weekly each Wednesday, 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

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Robert J. Andrews - Director of Sales
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County: \$7.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.
Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 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 submission 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.

New analysis CSEA contract sniping continues

By BARBARA SELVIN

HAUPPAUGE - Murmurs of discontent continue to circulate among the CSEA rank and file, while union officials predict that the proposed 1981 contract will be approved overwhelmingly.

Union members - some anonymous, some named - call Suffolk Life daily with questions about rumors they've heard, rumors that generally cast chapter president Ben Boczkowski in an unfavorable light. Boczkowski, who has explained the basis for each rumor brought to his notice by a reporter, dismisses the rumor mill as outright political maneuvering by factions seeking to unseat him in this year's union elections.

Boczkowski has been criticized for taking the county negotiator, Personnel and Labor Relations Director Jack Farneti, to political dinners and other functions as the union's guest. Farneti has also requested and received tickets for his entire family.

Boczkowski said his executive board has made lobbying at political functions "a part of our entire philosophy since elected. We decided it's the road to travel. The unit presidents are there too, and it's a chance to intermingle in a less rigid, constructed format than a formal hearing."

Boczkowski said Farneti is not the only county official to get a free meal on the union's tab, and added, "The protocol for inviting people is common ... This was long overlooked by the CSEA, but the PBA and the SOA (Superior Officers Association) have been bringing people for years."

Bill Gardner, a member of the Suffolk County Police Department white-collar workers' bargaining unit, complained that contracts weren't included in the ballots that were sent out Feb. 15. Union members' ballots must be post-marked no later than midnight Feb. 25.

Gardner said that only a fact sheet, prepared by the union leadership, had been sent out to inform the rank and file of the contract's terms, and he charged that some of the descriptions on the fact sheet were vague or misleading.

"It's all these little deceptions and shadings that people will base their votes on," Gardner said.

Boczkowski said logistics

and finances prevented the union from enclosing copies of the contract with the ballots. For one thing, the contract must be "finalized" - changed from ordinary English to legal language by county and union lawyers - following the ratification vote. Second, the contract, if printed in small type, would run between 20 and 30 pages.

Several union officials said they could not recall getting copies of any previous contracts with their ballots. The four-page summary they wrote for the proposed contract is "clear," Boczkowski said. "There's no mickey mouse."

Union members who have not yet received a ballot must contact union headquarters today. The telephone number is 475-8600.

Boczkowski confirmed another rumor, that he had in fact taken a trip to Las Vegas with Farneti on union money. But, he said, the purpose of the trip was to attend a convention of benefit fund trustees and to learn about computerization of benefit funds. Boczkowski, a computer operator, and Farneti are both trustees of the union's benefit fund.

Boczkowski also acknowledged that his title, computer operator, was upgraded from data processing equipment operator in 1980. The three grades under that title (for operator, senior operator and principal operator) each received a one-grade increase. Union officials say privately that the increase would probably have been greater had Boczkowski's presence in the group not made the salary and appeals board wary of political overtones. They noted that in 1980 tree trimmers were upgraded by two grades.

More than 20 people were affected by the change in the computer operator title.

A union official said he still expects the contract to pass. Officials are expecting between 3,000 and 4,000 votes.

Boczkowski called those who have spread rumors about his ethics or alleged misleading statements in the contract summary "scalawags and carpetbaggers. They only have their personal gain in mind. They're playing their own particular (political) games."

Slip your furniture into a fresh new look
with...

special savings on
**Custom Made
Slipcovers**

now **20% off**

15625



Spring is coming... and with it you'll want to give your home a new and exciting look! Take advantage of Swezey's low, low prices on slipcovers. Custom

cut, pinfitted and installed in your home. Included in the sale price are materials zippers, self cording overlapped seams and labor. Sofa up to 84" with two or three cushions or two chairs, one cushion each. Area charge included in this price. 3 groupings to choose from.

**limited
time
only**

Patchogue

1 West Main Street, Patchogue
475-0280

Patchogue open: Monday, Thursday,
Friday 'til 9 p.m.

Both stores open Sunday 12 to 4



Riverhead

111 East Main Street, Riverhead
727-6100

Riverhead open: Friday 'til 9 p.m.
Both stores open Sunday 12 to 4



Cohalan commended by B'nai B'rith

COHALAN COMMENDED BY B'NAI B'RITH - Suffolk County Executive Peter F. Cohalan (second from left) receives a letter of commendation from Margarete Goldberger (left) president of the Nassau-Suffolk Council of B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Women; Lester Rosenthal (second from right) and Inid Goldberg, co-chairmen of the Nassau-Suffolk Council, commending him for ordering the county police department to create a special law enforcement task force to investigate acts of anti-Semitism in the county. In accepting the award, Cohalan said, "Acts of anti-Semitism and hatred directed toward any one group in our community will not be tolerated. I am happy the task force has been successful to date, and pledge our continued cooperation to eradicate anti-Semitism from our midst."

Students visit colonial workshop

Twenty members of the Westhampton Beach Junior High School history club, led by Helene Gerard, librarian, attended a most informative and enjoyable colonial workshop at the Museums at Stony Brook.

The students worked with raw flax and raw wool which they dyed, carded, spun and wove. They made tin candle lanterns, dipped candles and made clay candle holders. All of this work was interrupted when they ate a colonial lunch, no soda pop or junk food snacks allowed.

The results of the field trip are now on display in the main showcase at the junior high school.

Wading River Senior Citizens, 727-4275. Camp De Wolfe, North Sipe Road, Wading River, 11792.

Southampton Town Senior Citizen Program, 728-4554. Polish Hall, Elm Street, Southampton, 11968.

A Man Of Men

With the stirring sounds of the Marine Corps hymn as his entree, Vietnam War veteran John Behan made his way to the podium. Maureen Reagan, the President's vivacious daughter, acknowledged him as the new director of the Veterans Administration for the United States of America.

It was a proud moment, probably one of the proudest in Behan's life. His pride, his emotionalism was felt throughout Colonie Hill, where 1,700 Republicans had gathered to celebrate the Republican victories of last November. As far as politics, Behan has often been non-partisan. As far as the vets are concerned, he is their man.

Behan was raised on the water at Shinnecock and Montauk. His father was a bayman turned charter boat captain. Behan enlisted in the U.S. Marines with pride and fortitude. He loved Montauk, he loved Suffolk County and he willingly put his life on the line to protect the form of government that guaranteed him and all of us freedom. Behan went to Vietnam as a whole man. In body, he did not come back that way. He lost his legs in a war that many try to pretend did not happen. Behan, as with most Vietnam vets, did not come home to a hero's welcome. In fact, throughout the country and even right here on the East End, Vietnam vets were looked on with disdain. The hatred for the war carried over and affected the men who gave of their lives.

Behan courageously accepted his disability. He would not quit. He learned to walk with the aid of artificial legs. He opened a business in Montauk and when the opportunity presented itself ran for town office. When Perry Duryea made his bid for the governorship he had to vacate his Assembly seat. Behan, with the support of his lovely wife Maureen, sought the nomination.

Initially, his support was weak. Many, and we among them, felt Behan would be nothing more than a stooge for Duryea if he became governor, and Duryea, although not sitting in the seat, would control it.

Behan has been an outstanding Assemblyman. He earned the respect of his fellow legislators as well as his constituents back home. Although he

suffers from a handicap, it did not stop him. He has covered the district from east to west better than it was covered for almost a decade.

Suffolk County Republican Leader Anthony Prudenti, in what some considered a brash move, proposed Behan for the top V.A. spot. Suffolk has never had anyone even near the top of the federal government. Behan had gone to Prudenti with what he termed "a dream." He wanted to become the V.A. director, to administer and to gain for all vets, particularly the Vietnam vets, what duty should have been theirs -- their rights; but more importantly, respect. Prudenti sought this nomination with the vigor and determination that have become his trademarks. He argued with the Reagan transition team that Suffolk, an early supporter of Reagan, had produced the largest plurality for Reagan of any county in the nation. He fought, insisting we, in Suffolk, have a candidate who is capable of managing the third largest department in the country, a man who exemplifies everything a leader should be. A man who has known the tortures of the damned but still is proud of his country, asking nothing more than to be of service.

Having given of himself he asked not for sympathy, but for opportunity. When given this opportunity, through sheer determination, willpower and ability, he made it work for himself and the people he was dedicated to serve. Prudenti asked Reagan and his transition team, "Why shouldn't America have the best?"

The joy, the pride that was felt for Johnny Behan from Montauk and the County of Suffolk Thursday night ebbed on Saturday. It became known the official appointment was being held up by a bloc of powerful Southern politicians, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who wanted the appointment to go to an old-time politician, who also happens to be a vet of World War II. This discrimination on the basis of which war the man served in is a disgrace, one which we hope President Reagan quickly rectifies by putting his official stamp of approval on John Behan who has proved himself to be not only a true American, but a courageously loyal one. And why not?

Stop Preventing Crime

Most businesses and many homeowners have installed burglar alarm systems which can run from a couple of hundred to several thousand dollars. Some systems consist of flashing lights and high piercing sirens. More sophisticated systems, when activated, automatically call a central service or the police department directly.

The installation of the system is to prevent uninvited intrusion. In a sense they are an admission that the police can't adequately handle crime and the public must take preventive crime measures to protect themselves.

About a year ago the Suffolk County Legislature passed an idiotic law that imposes fines on owners of systems which summon police when no burglary is in progress. Burglar alarm systems are subject to interference by abnormal weather conditions, which cause severe fluctuations in electricity. These conditions do cause false alarms, but the false as well as the legitimate alarms must be investigated.

The police claim that in western Suffolk there were more than 50,000 false alarms last year, thus, it lobbied for this law. The law came under severe criticism from the business community. It argued that if the police were doing their jobs and had a handle on crime, there wouldn't be a need for the systems in the first place.

When an alarm goes off the businessmen themselves, or their appointed delegate, are called simultaneously with the police and they respond to the warning. They are just as inconvenienced as the cops. One leading retailer in the Patchogue area claims that, in most instances, the executive of the store generally

arrives at the scene before the police do. He also questioned how many of the alarms are, in reality, false alarms or from systems set off by someone attempting a break-in but were frightened off before they actually had entered the premises.

Legislator John Rosso has recommended keeping the alarm systems, but increasing the fines for false alarms by 100 percent. This is ludicrous. Why should the county have on its books a law penalizing people for attempts to protect their own property? Instead of implementing fines against protection, the county should pay a bounty. Why not pay those who have a system that thwarts a robbery a bonus of \$500 and if a burglar is captured by the police in the act, a reward of \$5,000. This makes more sense than penalizing the good guys.

Almost one-half of county taxes go to fund police protection in the west end. One of the main items of police protection that the average businessman or the average person is concerned about is stopping thefts. The police obviously are nearly helpless in controlling burglaries and unauthorized intrusions. Burglar alarm systems may well be a poor alternative to a functioning police force, but they are better than nothing. Until a better system is devised we would think the police and the legislature would encourage their use rather than passing a senseless law and imposing harsh fines on people who are trying to protect themselves.

The legislature should show their collective wisdom and repeal this idiotic law.

And why not?

Do You Want To Control Inflation?

As we listened to President Reagan's economic address to the nation, we were reminded of another President, the late John Kennedy, when he stated, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Reagan, in essence, laid out an economic proposal that if implemented would restore strength to America's economic situation and would control inflation. Reagan forthrightly laid the blame for inflation where the blame belongs: on the doorstep of the federal bureaucracy. Unlike his predecessor, he did not blame the people, the producers of America.

Plain and simple, it was the federal government which caused inflation through reckless spending and

reckless taxation. To control inflation and in turn get America rolling again, incentives must be returned to the producers, the workers and industry, through tax reductions. The plan he outlined called for reduction in many federal programs, but they were accompanied with a promise that the truly needy would not suffer one iota.

We were encouraged by his speech as we are sure most Americans were. It is now up to Congress to correct its sins of the past, to stand up and be counted, to implement the program expeditiously. Let Congress show the American public we are working together again, as a team, for the greater good in the country and the majority who still believes there is hope in our system. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

May I congratulate you on your very timely article, "How Much Can You Drink?" which appeared in Suffolk Life Dec. 17. I wish more articles of this type would reach the papers --

particularly around the holidays.

Sincerely,
Art Reichelt
Alcoholism Counselor
North Patchogue

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 30

and Suffolk County Life
Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of
192,000 Circulation Weekly

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, 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

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Robert J. Andrews - Director of Sales
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County: \$7.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 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.