

# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Comparing F.D.R. and R.R.

This week we mark the 100th birthday of Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is fitting during this week to compare him with our current President Ronald Reagan.

Both entered office during unusually hard times, filled with what seemed to be insurmountable problems. F.D.R. came into office during the Great Depression. Our economy was in shambles. He represented hope. Ronald Reagan also came into office during a time of great economic hardship, with an economy that was crumbling.

Up until F.D.R.'s days, the market place controlled the economy. America was truly a country and a land of opportunity. If you worked hard, had the right ideas, utilized our natural resources with the labor force at hand, you would grow and prosper. What you made you kept. Taxes were not paid by most, and those that did paid just a percent or two of what they earned.

The Great Depression brought a 25 percent unemployment rate, food lines and social unrest. F.D.R., using political courage and personal magnetism entered into a social revolution called the New Deal. The government became the employer of record through the C.C.C. programs, W.P.A. programs and a host of other make work economic moves.

Of course, these programs had to be financed by real dollars, for we operated on a gold standard. This meant new taxes and a redistribution of wealth.

We are sure when these programs were set into motion by those then in government, they had no idea they would be transformed less than a quarter of a century later into the social programs of today. Social programs which have brought us to a point where our capital has been stripped and our incentive to work has been removed.

Under J.F.K., and L.B.J., the social programs of America were expanded a hundred fold over those put into motion by F.D.R. The pendulum had finally swung too far to the left.

The country in the late 70's was facing, as many of the cities already had, economic bankruptcy. More Americans were unemployed at the end of Jimmy Carter's presidency

than ever before in the history of the United States. Inflation had topped the double digit mark and was as high as 15 percent. Low income workers were faced with up to one third of their income being taken in social security taxes, and federal and state withholding taxes. The New Deal and the Great Society had run its course.

It became more beneficial not to work than to work. You were better off in investing in tax free municipal bonds than investing in machinery to create jobs.

America, ready for a return to basics, elected Ronald Reagan, a tough, Conservative president. Reagan in his first year, as did F.D.R., proposed revolutionary reforms on the federal level. Congress sensed the mood of Americans and went along with many. Reagan proposed the revamping of the tax structure to restore incentive to save and to invest, and cutbacks in social programs and the elimination of waste in government.

Ironically, the reduction that he proposed did not even total the last year's increase of the Carter budget over the previous year. Yet, these cutbacks were met with cries of anguish from the liberal politicians and the liberal press. Manipulating the news, they would take individual cases and manufacture them into scare propaganda in an attempt to effect a rebuttal of Reagan's programs.

In just one short year, inflation has been curbed by almost 50 percent. It is now at 8.9 percent. This is just a beginning. It will take years to overcome the mindless social programs that brought the country to its knees.

Reagan this year proposed a program called New Federalism, a return to the states of powers usurped by the federal government since the New Deal. It includes over 40 programs Reagan and his advisors believe would be better administered by state and county governments.

With the return of these programs, over the next ten years, will come block grants to the States, federal funds without strings attached. These funds will provide the financial ability for states to manage their own governments. It will be up to the

states to choose where and how they want to spend this money, without mandates from the federal government. They will choose whether it will be more important to put money into welfare or schools, roads or hospitals, recreation or prisons.

The federal government's role will be diminished. It will be returned to providing the essential services only it can and should perform.

We look forward to Reagan's New

Federalism optimistically, for it offers hope as does his presidency. Hope to frustrated people, as the people of the 30's received hope from Roosevelt.

It's the dawning of a new era, a return to self reliance whether it be on a state or individual level. This has always been the strength of this country and it is our hope for tomorrow.

And why not?

## The Value of Catholic Schools

This week is Catholic School week here on Long Island. These private schools are doing their best to show themselves off favorably to the community they serve. However, the publicity they have distributed, although important, has missed the mark.

Catholic Schools, as well as all private schools, perform a tremendous service to the community that often goes unacknowledged. The biggest problem we have here on Long Island is survival, survival amidst the highest real estate taxes in the nation. The school taxes portion of the real estate tax eats up 65 to 70 percent of the total tax bill, plus an additional one-third of all state taxes generated. It costs an average Long Island school district over \$4,000 per year to educate a student.

Catholic and private schools pay their own way. Outside of transportation, some sociological services and loans of books, the cost of educating private and Catholic school students is absorbed and paid for by the participating parents through tuition and subsidies provided by the parish they serve.

In our hometown, Riverhead, there are approximately 2,200 students in school. Over 1,000 of these students are enrolled in Parochial schools. There are two Catholic grade schools, one Episcopal and one Catholic high school.

If these students were enrolled in the public school, based upon the current cost of education per student, over \$4 million dollars would have to be raised in additional taxes from Riverhead residents. Real estate taxes would have to go up at least 25 percent on every piece of property in the community. Because there are parochially operated schools in the community, everyone benefits.

We often hear politicians and public

officials extolling the virtues of industry because of the expanded tax base it brings. But just think of this, if the Catholic schools in the Town of Riverhead were not in existence, almost \$100 million dollars worth of industrial buildings would have to be erected to keep the tax burden at its present level.

The Catholic schools have not only helped reduce the burden on the taxpayers, but they have provided a sanctuary and an alternative for parents who still believe that discipline, hard work and basic education are important to their children. The parochial schools create a community and an environment where respect for one's self, fellow students, teachers and administrators is expected.

It is demanded that each student work up to their ability. The parochial schools not only expect the best of their students, but also of the parents. Parents are required to take part in the educational process of the students. Nightly reviews of study assignments and homework, regular communication with the school's teachers and administrators, participation in the operation of the school and the fund raising needed to sustain it are all part of a parent's responsibility. Education in parochial schools is a family operation, not left to a stranger to miraculously achieve.

As a publication, we thank the parochial schools for their existence, for giving parents who want something better for their children an opportunity. We also thank and commend these schools and people who support them for keeping all of our taxes down by saving the community an increase of 25 percent in their real estate taxes.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I'm writing to commend Frank Lescenski and his "gritty all-nighters."

The roads, when we all awoke, were all cleaned and sanded.

Ninety percent of us were able to make it into work. Others, from Southold, Mattituck and also towns west of Riverhead, claimed it was tough travelling and at times only one lane on the main roads.

He and his crew should receive a round of applause and thanks.

Good going, and keep up the good work.

Dick Green  
Aquebogue

Dear Mr. Willmott:

As a resident of L.I. for over the past half century, it pleased me to read your brave and effective reply to Mr. Caputo's lengthy letter printed in your Jan. 6th issue.

Congratulations! You are a worthy citizen and are doing more than your share for your county, state, and country!

This need not be printed in your paper. It is a moral boost and show of appreciation. Indeed, you are enlightening our sad citizenry in an honest, forthright, intrepid, and sensible manner.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Wm. S. Cobb  
a proud WW II Navy Veteran of good standing

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## SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 21 NO. 24

NEWSPAPERS

and Suffolk County Life

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Mid Hampton  
Westhampton  
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Sayville, Oakdale  
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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.

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## Cohalan's Leadership Worked

County Executive Peter Cohalan took a chance last Fall when he announced that the county would close the Motor Vehicle Departments in Bayshore, Medford and Riverhead. In making this announcement, he knew he would alienate several thousand people, workers and users of the Motor Vehicle Department.

Cohalan was forced into this desperate move by the State's refusal to live up to its obligation in paying for the operation of these state offices as called for under a contractual agreement made almost a decade ago. The State and the County had agreed the county would provide the offices and man them, and then be reimbursed dollar for dollar by the State for their operation.

Licensing fees have increased on a regular basis over the past decade, but the amount of money being reimbursed to the county remained stagnant. Needless to say, operating costs had also gone up with inflation. The net result was we, the county taxpayers, were paying over two million per year of state obligations.

The County Clerk had requested an increase in fees to bring them in line with the operating costs. An Association of County Clerks message on the shortfall was ignored by the governor.

Cohalan, in desperation, announced that the County would close these facilities unless the State was willing to pick up their fair share. Last week, County Executive Cohalan and Senator LaValle announced a plan had been worked out and had been budgeted for that. It would have the State take over the operation of these State-run offices, effective April 1. The County would continue to provide the physical space at no charge to the State.

The move that forced the favorable outcome took guts, for it was

politically unpopular to even consider closing these people-oriented service bureaus. For years it was known that we were not getting back reimbursement from the State to cover the operating expenses, yet nothing was done.

There are a number of other areas that require a similar type of gamemanship to get the state to accept their responsibility. The next target Cohalan should go after is the policing of the Long Island Expressway. It is estimated it costs Nassau and Suffolk Counties \$6 million out of our police budgets to service this road. This \$6 million should either be reimbursed by the state, or the state should take over the policing of this road through the New York State Police as they do on other interstate highways in the State.

Long Island residents are being taxed twice for this service. We pay state taxes for the state police in Westchester and upstate counties who patrol the Thruway and other expressways and parkways. We not only pay these taxes, which keep the taxes of up-state residents down, we then have to pay taxes to fund the Suffolk and Nassau County Police who are involved in patrolling the Long Island Expressway.

This road is a state obligation, a state cost, not a county one. Cohalan and Nassau's County Executive Purcell should do what Cohalan did on Motor Vehicle Dept. reimbursements: announce to the State that we will be reimbursed dollar for dollar for services provided or, by a specific date, we will remove the county police from this road, leaving it unprotected.

This is hard nose leadership, leadership we desperately need so that we may put an end to Long Island's double taxation.

And why not?

## What Every Boy Should Be

Years ago, during lunch, Supreme Court Justice Tom Stark made a casual comment that left an enduring impression with us. Ninety-five percent of the people who come into his court, he said, have never been in the scouting program. That comment has particular significance in this, the current celebration of Boy Scout's Week, for it is proof that in addition to all of its other attributes, Scouting has helped set a nation of people straight.

Scouting is a movement of volunteerism by adults to help train build and mold young men. Almost every community within our circulation area has scouting movements ranging from Cub Scouts through the Explorer Troop level. Scouting, for some, is a lifetime commitment. They go into scouting at the young age of

seven and continue on through the steps to where they become an adult volunteer.

Adult volunteers are the backbone of scouting. They provide leadership, the meetings, the instruction for the boys, the fund raising for the packs and troops that provide the activities. These volunteers are not only men. Many of the Cub and Weeblo packs are organized and headed by women.

Volunteering your time in the scouting movement is one of the best commitments to a better country and the future of its youth you can make. Rarely, outside of raising your own children, do you have an opportunity to influence and guide others to such an extent. The time you volunteer is only limited by your own schedule. It can be as little as a few hours a year

to help with a fund raising drive, to a weekly commitment of organizing and sponsoring a local den, pack or troop.

Scouting today is diversified. It's more than building a campfire and pitching a tent. Scouting programs go far afield, and have changed to meet technology of today's changing world.

We encourage our readers to consider giving of themselves to this

movement. No matter what your background, scouting has need for your talents. You will be gratified by your contribution, for you will help a young person develop into a stronger and better citizen better able to cope with the world of tomorrow. Call Scouting headquarters 924-7000 for details on how you may become involved.

And why not?

## Managing the News

Last week, Long Islanders learned we were experiencing the best employment rate we have achieved in seven years. Yes, we have more people working, and the least amount of people unemployed than we have had in the last seven years here on Long Island, even through the country itself is supposed to be in a recession.

To us this is great news, something to holler about. But Newsday, the so-called Long Island newspaper, buried the story in the business section, some 40 pages back.

For the life of us we cannot figure out why they must put bad news and headlines in the front of the paper, and bury what is good news. This kind of news is not only a shot of adrenalin to business, but makes everyone feel a heck of a lot more secure and good about themselves.

Having one of the best employment records in the nation is important! It gives people confidence in themselves, their jobs and their future. People today are very concerned and conscious of employment figures, and they react accordingly to the ups and downs.

When this country recovered from the recession a couple of years ago,

Long island did not fare as well. This news was a front page story. Now that we are doing much better than the nation, this good news is buried in the back.

The reason why Long Island's economy is doing so well is its diversification between government, resort, manufacturing, research and agricultural industries. Our economy is made up of thousands of small businesses. It's made up of hundreds of thousands of productive workers who have given their all during hard times. We are not overly dependent upon defense contracts or federal government subsidies.

Not only are we enjoying unprecedented employment here on Long Island, we also are enjoying one of the highest wage bases in the nation, and a standard of living that coincides.

Newsday may be down on Long Island, but Suffolk Life is high! We think it's great that we have record employment and tip our hat to the employers who made it happen. And to the employees who have produced, and in doing so, have created more jobs.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The rise in earthquake tremors that Paul S. Tribble cites in a recent letter as a reason to close Shoreham may not be a cause for immediate alarm. These tremors seem to be occurring at about the same time LILCO customers are receiving their bills. Could each LILCO customer be stomping up and down and thus causing a geographic shift on Long Island.

Mr. Binder, manager of the nuclear engineering department at Shoreham, answers Mr. Tribble's letter stating that Shoreham is safe from these tremors and that "It is being built to benefit our customers." He further states that "It is not being built to profit LILCO," which is a very interesting statement coming from a manager within the LILCO organization. If LILCO is reporting a \$247,732,000 profit for 1981, up 21 percent from

1980, then can we, the paying customers, expect a refund due to an overcharge by LILCO?

I feel the tremors will only get more intense with each new bill and also with each new rate hike request, (already another rate hike is pending approval).

With the staggering cost of Shoreham already the major issue, one would expect a financial loss by LILCO, but LILCO still reports impressive profits year after year. This is our investment Long Island. As LILCO gains, we lose. This is revolting.

Mr. Binder, the tremors can only increase and intensify.

Thank you for your time  
Kenneth Balsiov  
Rocky Point

USPS 098-300

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## Governor Backs 19

Governor Carey announced recently he was submitting to the Legislature a bill that would raise the minimum drinking age in New York State to 19. We are delighted.

For the past two years, we have advocated increasing the minimum drinking age to 19 because it will get legalized drinking out of high school.

the current 18 year old minimum drinking age regulation, most seniors are legally able to buy and consume alcoholic beverages. Because it is legal for the seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshman are under peer pressure to join them. If the law is changed, making 19 the minimum age, almost no one in high school will be legally able to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages.

Of course, changing the age limit will not stop high school drinking entirely, but we do suspect it will help reduce it substantially. If it is illegal for seniors to drink, lowerclassmen will not be under the peer pressure to follow suit.

Carey was deficient, though, in not recommending a state or county-administered mandatory proofing system, one which would require anyone of drinking age who wishes to consume or purchase alcohol to apply for a photo identification card issued by local, county or state police. Falsifying, counterfeiting or altering this proof in any way should carry a substantial penalty, including revocation of a driver's license, or a similar, meaningful deterrent.

As it stands now, fourteen and fifteen year olds are boldly walking into bars, deli's, and package stores, presenting false proof and demanding to be served. The law places the onus on the holder of the liquor license. Although some bars and liquor stores demand double proof, all this means

is the potential purchaser has to have two forged pieces of proof. And they do.

Liquor stores, restaurants and bars have lobbied the state for a number of years for a state-wide system of proofing. Most have no qualms in complying with the law, but feel that the law as it is now written is neither workable, nor fair to their industry.

During a recent conversation we had with Tom Madden of Madden's Pub in Eastport, he indicated that members of the Long Island Restaurant Association, of which he is a member, would favor a county or state-operated training program that would lead to the licensing of those who are professionally engaged in dispensing alcoholic beverages. Such a program, he said, could be similar to one which leads to certification of those involved in food preparation and handling to meet requirements of the county's health department. Most restaurants and bars would similarly comply with the law if the law itself is easy to understand and is fair to all concerned. He feels schooling and licensing would accomplish this goal.

This proposal is a reasonable approach to a very serious problem. We would like to see the Legislature enact, this year, a 19-year-old minimum drinking age law, a mandatory proof system for those legally eligible to drink, and mandatory classes and licensing for all who are engaged in disbursement of alcohol, a program that would clearly set forth the responsibility involved in dispensing alcoholic beverages.

If you feel as we do, send this editorial with your name on it to Governor Carey or your state legislator.

And why not?

beverages turns out to be \$2 to \$3 per case as predicted by industry advocates, not only will Nassau and Suffolk border residents hop the border to buy in Nassau, so will many other residents throughout Suffolk. Instead of buying a six pack or two, here they will buy a case or two of their favorite beverage, when in Nassau, which for many is weekly, thwarting the purpose and robbing the

county of needed tax dollars.

A bottle bill for a single county such as Suffolk was a bad idea to start with. The problem is state-wide and will not be solved within the confines of Suffolk. The Legislature would be wise to vote for postponement of its enactment, or abandon the idea in its entirety.

And why not?

## Margiotta Must Resign

We are deeply disturbed by the shenanigans of the Nassau County Republican Organization which changed their bylaws in an attempt to keep their leader Joseph Margiotta as chairman.

Margiotta was indicted, tried and convicted of a felony. The by-laws of the organization plainly state that no one convicted of a felony can remain in office. Upon Margiotta's conviction, the executive committee changed its laws and later had them ratified by the full GOP committee.

The reasoning for this is the feeling of many that Margiotta had been railroaded, convicted out of malice, and that his conviction will be overturned on the forthcoming appeals. These appeals can take either a few months, or several years.

The example that Margiotta and his supporters are setting here have far-reaching implications on all who are in governmental service. No matter how heinous a crime an individual in public service is indicted for, under the current laws, they may remain in office, drawing a salary until either exonerated or convicted. In most cases, once indicted these public servants become lame ducks who are unable to adequately perform in their role, but continue to draw their salary which is paid by the taxpayers.

If public officials are permitted to continue in their posts even after being found guilty by a jury of their peers, as Margiotta is asking to do, we could wind up with needless burdens

on the taxpayers forever.

We do operate under a system of justice whereby you are innocent until proven guilty. But those in public life who have received the trust of the people should, we believe, face a more stringent standard. Public officials, upon taking their oath of office, should agree to automatic suspension, without salary, if an indictment is returned against them by a Grand Jury. Without such an automatic waiver, a guilty verdict by a judge or jury, after both the prosecution and defense have had their day in court, should constitute enough reason for a public official to step down, without the charade of waiting until the end of the appeal process, which is nothing more than offering the convicted official an extended free ride.

We sympathize with Margiotta's plight. There is much in the indictment that we question. But the fact is Margiotta, in his position of Republican leader, is a stalwart of the American system of justice and, as such, has an obligation to play by these rules, not change them.

Margiotta should resign. He must resign if he has any feelings left for the Republican party, or for the American system of government and justice. His remaining in office by subterfuge is an affront to the Republican party and affirms the belief of many that we have a double standard of justice in America.

And why not?

## Second Thoughts

It appears many of Suffolk County's legislators are having second thoughts about the bottle bill it passed last year, which is to take effect on April 1. There are good reasons for these second thoughts.

The bottle bill passed upon the insistence of the environmentalists over the objection of the beverage industry and many consumers. At the time of its passage, it was anticipated before its enactment Nassau County and probably the state would follow suit, thus creating broader area standards and equalizing the financial impact on Suffolk and its consumers.

Bottling industry lobbyists had warned that, if implemented on only a local level, the financial impact of this measure would not only be the nickel-a-bottle deposit, but an estimated \$2 to \$3 increase in cost of the beverage due to limited production and increased handling of non-reuseable returnables. But the bill passed by a slim margin.

The bottle industries' represen-

tatives, although defeated, kept up their lobbying, presenting new facts, new arguments to the old legislators and the new ones who came into office on January 1. They have now created serious doubt amongst the legislators about the merits and the wisdom of the bill's approval.

More than a few of the legislators who voted for the Suffolk bill anticipated Nassau joining them in this move. Others voted in an attempt to get the State off dead center. As neither of these governmental bodies have moved, and we near the deadline for enactment here in Suffolk, there are some grave reservations.

Suffolk Life is an advocate of a state-wide reuseable deposit bill. But like many of the legislators, we have grave concerns about the financial impact of Suffolk going it alone. There is a potential for losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in sales tax dollars if Suffolk attempts to implement this legislation without at least Nassau County going along.

If the difference in the cost of

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

We would like to send a big thanks to your paper and its many sponsors.

Helen & Ed Hedges  
Palm Beach, Fla.

Editor's Note

The Hedges were the winner of the \$2,500 grand prize in 1981 Christmas Shopping Spree. This prize gave them the opportunity of going to Fla.

USPS 098-300

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## Increase Sales Tax For Education

Governor Carey proposed this past week increasing the state sales tax by one cent for the alleged purpose of increasing state financing for education. The idea stinks.

Carey, in making the announcement, claimed the revenues raised by sales taxes would be used exclusively now and in the future solely for the purpose of education. Carey should know that no chief executive or legislator could permanently bind future chief executives or the legislature to such a mandate. There is nothing in the law that can hold these funds safe for educational purposes only.

Carey claimed the reason for this new tax was to take the burden off real estate taxes. Here on Long Island, 60 to 70 percent of all real estate taxes raised are used to finance school systems. New York State schools spend per pupil almost twice the average of the nation. In addition to the funding raised by real estate taxes, over one-third of the taxes raised by the state through sales, income and corporate taxes are used to supplement those raised from taxes on real estate.

The basic educational courses which are mandated by the state guarantee every student a minimum education. The funding of these prescribed courses accounts for approximately 40 percent of most of Long Island's school budgets. Coincidentally, the state funds approximately 40 percent of most Long Island school budgets. In reality, the state funds 100 percent of what is mandated.

This funding, though, comes in the form of state aid, and is not specifically tied to particular mandated courses. It is lumped in the general budget. Local school boards have the prerogative to develop the balance of the budget. They can offer just the minimum, mandated courses, educating students in the basic R's.

If they would offer this basic, mandated educational package, local school boards would not have to impose huge local real estate taxes. The school boards, in their desire to offer the finest educational product money can buy, go far afield in

developing courses for students. They can range the gamut from necessary courses in today's world in languages, science and math, to the extreme which include college level courses, advanced art and cultural curriculum as well as swimming, diving, print making and a host of other costly electives. It is these courses over the basics that are responsible for the huge school taxes we must pay here in New York State.

Combine these electives with the trend toward reductions in class sizes and the lack of productivity by some educators, and you have cost without end.

If Carey is serious about making a meaningful contribution to the educational dilemma in this state, we would recommend that he propose legislation tying state funding to the basic mandated educational package. The passage of this basic package, as outlined by the State Board of Regents, would be automatic as would the funding by the state.

The class sizes and electives, as well as the physical plant, would be at the direction of the school board subject to an annual vote by the taxpayers of the district. If the package is turned down by the voters at the annual school meeting, it could not be brought up again for a re-vote until the next annual school board meeting. School boards would be forced to present a package with regard to the taxpayers' ability to fund. This is something they do not do.

In addition, Carey should propose a total revamping of the tenure laws. They are archaic and no longer needed. Our current tenure laws tie the hands of the elected school boards. Their laws make it near impossible for school boards to remove teachers who are burnt out, no longer productive or incompetent because of emotional or physiological reasons. These teachers not only do not produce but, more appalling, they waste students' minds, and their chances for advancement.

Teachers are not gods, they are subject to the same problems as other workers. What is good one year may become terrible the next. Allowing these teachers to remain in the

system is a travesty to the students and a waste of education and tax dollars. There must be a mechanism, and legislation, to bring about their removal when they can no longer serve efficiently and effectively. A good basic education is guaranteed under our state constitution. The courts have ruled all students must receive the same basic education, but they have not decreed that all must receive all the electives there are to offer.

In providing a good sound basic education for our students, we must keep in mind the taxpayers' ability to pay. A balance must be achieved. Under our current education laws, there is no balance. The state provides a huge block of money to aid the schools. School boards then levy local taxes to make up the difference between that which the state is funding and that which the board deems is necessary to cover the educational programs they desire to offer. Unfortunately, what the board deems as necessary is often beyond the ability of the taxpayers to pay.

When school budgets are presented

at the annual meetings, school boards blatantly exaggerate the truth when they say 85 to 90 percent of the budget is mandated by the state. Actually, only 40 percent is mandated. The other 45 percent is elective curriculum. When offered, though, it falls under state jurisdiction and must be offered in the state's mandated form.

School boards have the power to present almost any kind of budget they desire. Currently, if the budget is defeated, they just have to continue resubmitting it until it is passed. The only alternative the community has is to run school board candidates who are pro-taxpayers.

As the pendulum swings we expect to see this happen more in the future, candidates running for the school board who think taxes first, education second. Maybe this is what it will take to get a Governor and the Legislature to address the issues for what they are, rather than fall back on a trite excuse to raise taxes, so that they may throw more money at a problem that will not go away.

And why not?

## Never Again

The Vietnam War was one of the most controversial ever fought. Many felt that the ideology of this war was wrong, that there was no reason to fight a war they did not believe in. Many more felt we were fighting a war in a foreign country without a commitment to win.

We sent our men into this war with their hands tied behind their backs. Instead of arming them with the latest sophisticated military technology, we supplied our sons and daughters with antiquated weaponry from the Second World War. We tried to fight a gentleman's war, limiting our might to the weaponry of the enemy.

The youth of that generation had their reasons for being opposed. The older generation was also frustrated in having to send their children off to fight a war without the weapons or the commitment to win.

We are enraged at this same argument being offered in debate in reference to San Salvador, the Latin American country in which we have stationed military advisors to aid that government in its fight against Communist rebels. These advisors

are being put into the field without the arms to protect themselves. It's ludicrous to consider putting American military personnel into a war situation without guns to protect themselves. The eggheads don't argue the validity of these military people being there, they argue whether they should be able to carry rifles.

From what we have read, the guerrilla forces attack without warning. Unless you are armed and prepared, you are dead.

For God's sake, stop the argument now! Give these personnel the armaments they need to at least have a chance of survival. These people could be your son or daughter. There isn't one of us that wouldn't want our flesh and blood to have the best protection available.

If we are reluctant to give them the best means of self-defense, then we must pull them out. Never again should we allow our country to force our sons and daughters to fight a battle with a hand tied behind their back. If we have to become involved, it must be to win - never to tie.

And why not?

## East End Sold Out

The Democratic plan for reapportionment of the Assembly district is a blatant sell out of the East End's interest.

The Democratic plan released last week, splits the East End into two separate districts rather than one district covering the five East End towns, and a small portion of Brookhaven.

It is projected, based upon vote, that the legislator for the North and South Fork district would come from Brookhaven Town. The East End will be stripped of any meaningful representation in Albany.

Democrats should be more in-

censed than Republicans or Independents. As the lines are now proposed, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to elect a Democrat from either of these districts. Couple this with the resentment this attempted division of the East End will cause, the ripple effect will only enhance the Republican position on the East End.

The East End Democratic leaders should protest vehemently these proposed reapportionment plans. They are a disservice to the residents of the East End, and a disgraceful example of gerrymandering by the Democrats.

And why not?

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