

## The Ultimate Sacrifice

The seven astronauts whose lives were tragically taken last week have our prayers and our gratitude. They and their predecessors, as well as those who will come after them in the space program, are owed so much by this nation and others.

So many things we use today have had their beginning in the space program, such as the teflon pots and pans we use on a daily basis, are space age marvels. The common, everyday calculator came out of the research and development. We just have to stop and look around us to see how our lives have been changed and enhanced by the

ideas, the products and the developments brought about by the space program.

It will be a long time before we know for certain what caused this tragic mishap. Human error or equipment, the end result was the same, the astronauts' lives were lost, the space shuttle destroyed. The program will not end. We hope each of us will say a prayer in memory of the souls of those who gave their lives in a program designed for the exploration of a better future.

And why not?

## Catholic School Week

Catholic schools throughout the nation will have reasons to celebrate this week. Catholic and other denominational schools, which have played a very important part in educating the young of our country from almost its inception, are the focus of a special week.

These schools are funded privately and receive almost no aid from public sources. They offer a unique form of education not normally found in public schools. Most of these schools believe in educating the whole student, the whole person. As much emphasis is placed on the development of character as education of the mind.

The school we are most familiar with, Saint John's in Riverhead, has a fine woman, Sister Mary Quentin, as the head. In discussing her philosophy, she explains it this way: "The first thing you try to do with every child is to teach them to respect themselves. Allow them to understand that they have self worth. They are important to themselves and to the world they are surrounded by. We then work with a child to enhance these attributes. When children respect themselves, they have little difficulty in respecting their peers, their teachers, their environment. Respect is taught out of understanding, love, compassion and discipline."

We have personally watched Sister Quentin moving throughout

the school, speaking to each child, calling them by name. She not only knows the names of each child, but their backgrounds, and the reasons for the various moods they might express.

Educationally, the emphasis in Saint John's, as in so many other parochial schools, is on the basics. They strive to teach the child to read, do math and write. More is expected of these children than in many of their public school counterparts. Because more is expected of the child, they produce better.

The parents also are expected to play a vital role in the child's overall academic development. Homework is commonplace, parents are expected to check and to sign it. Parents also take part in the operation of the schools, from aiding in special projects such as "hot dog" days, all are expected to take part in fund-raising projects, such as bingo. Although to many this may seem like work, the involvement is again part of the child's entire development. They see and feel the interest the parents have in them, and respond accordingly.

We salute our Catholic schools and the other denominational schools that are striving to offer a positive education in a proper environment for our children.

And why not?

## Herniated Reasoning:

The New York State Public Service Commission recently gave LILCO another reward for poor management in the form of a new rate increase. Until the other day, the only people happy about this gift were the officials of LILCO. Then came a Newsday editorial which presented some of the most herniated reasoning we have heard in years.

Newsday gloats that when the new rate increase goes into effect, nearly half of the cost of the controversial Shoreham plant will be included in the rate base. Rather than take the side of the public, and condemn the PSC for including the plant's cost in direct violation of the used and useful portion of the State Public Service Law, this newspaper, which likes to elevate its own status by declaring "Newsday is Long Island," echoes LILCO's line. With such actions, Newsday is LILCO, not Long Island.

The PSC granted LILCO the rate increase for one reason only: to enhance LILCO's financial status. The fact this has a drastic impact on the financial status of the public is very apparently of no concern to the ownership of the West Coast Times Mirror's Long Island newspaper. The fact that the continued rate increases do nothing to force the arrogant utility into good fiscal management doesn't faze Newsday one little bit. Where is Newsday's journalistic responsibility to its readers, in being the apologist for LILCO and the PSC?

Newsday knows full well that LILCO has a whole bushel basket full of future rate increases in store. A recent communication to its

stockholders reported the utility intends to seek rate increases to cover its wasteful spending in the Bokun Mine fiasco in which LILCO invested millions and wound up with a hole in the ground full of water; for costs of planning for the Jamesport nuclear plants which were rejected by the NRC; for costs expended toward another nuclear plant in Connecticut which was cancelled. Add to these the future increases in the rates for the rest of Shoreham, and for LILCO's investment in the Nine Mile 2 nuclear plant, and you have good reason why everyone, except LILCO and Newsday, firmly believes there must be an alternative to LILCO if Long Island is to survive.

Newsday attacks the governor, the State Consumer Protection Board and Suffolk County officials who intend to sue the PSC to block this latest ripoff. Newsday knows full well these officials are trying to protect the public's interests by preventing the PSC from giving LILCO further expenditures to continue its push to open Shoreham, an imprudent, ill-conceived drain on the company's resources and a threat to the public's future. Instead of applauding these actions to protect the public, they condemn them because they, like the PSC, seem concerned only about LILCO and not the people.

We fail to see the logic behind Newsday's blind support of this mismanaged corporation, and suggest that they rethink their policy of being LILCO's public relations hacks at the expense of the public.

And why not?

## D'Amato Came Through

Senator Alphonse D'Amato recently joined Senator Moynihan in coming out forcefully in opposition to LILCO's attempt to have their illegal drill tested by F.E.M.A. D'Amato not only spoke out, but has contacted the White House and has asked the President to order the N.R.C. and F.E.M.A. to halt this charade. We congratulate the senator for these actions. They have been long in coming.

His voice is very important as he is the highest ranking elected Republican in the State of New York. His homebase is Long Island and

the concerns of Long Islanders should be his as well.

D'Amato has been known, on many occasions, not only to get the ear of the President, but to do a little arm twisting to carry out some of his plans and projects.

D'Amato should be effective in discussing the situation with the President and convincing him to order the drill stopped. Results will tell the effectiveness of D'Amato as our senator. Results are much more persuasive than words.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Sorrow turned to outrage'

Dear Sirs:

We must write to you to let you know how upset we were upon seeing the picture of the tortured deer that appeared in Suffolk Life News of Jan. 22, 1986.

As we read the article our sorrow turned to outrage as it was revealed that a trained biologist did not allow for a deer's growth when he installed a monitoring collar. How can such a person be hired to conduct a study, the avowed purpose of which, is to benefit the wildlife on Fire Island and allow this to happen?

The Wildlife of Fire Island is a resource to be enjoyed by all the visitors to the Island. Our visits to the Island in the past have been rewarding in part because we were able to observe the wildlife. To us it would be a tragedy if this were to end.

Concerns of property owners are understandable but surely solutions can be found that don't include the torture of the native wildlife.

Yours truly,  
Eileen Aitken  
W. Matejkaayville

## SUFFOLK LIFE

Vol. 25 No. 25

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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# Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## The Buck Stops Here

Harry Truman popularized the statement, "The buck stops here." As President of the United States, the chief executive officer, he rightly felt he was responsible for all that went on in the United States that the President's office touched or controlled.

We were disheartened last week to hear our President, Ronald Reagan, squirm in trying to deny that he and his office had any responsibility over the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He claimed the NRC is an independent regulatory agency and stands removed from governmental influence. Thus, he insisted, he could do nothing to stop the sham test of the LILCO emergency evacuation plan scheduled for tomorrow. The President was not being totally honest in expressing that view.

The fact of the matter is the sham test is being conducted under the control of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. That is directly under the President's control. And the Justice Department, now being headed by a key Reagan ally, is involved in trying to prevent Suffolk County from stopping the drill. Surely the President has some input into the kingdom of James Meese, who was once a key Reagan aide, who the president named as Attorney General. Surely he's not saying he has no control over the various departments and agencies of the federal government.

Ronald Reagan, to us and to many Americans, is a modern day folk hero. He is the John Wayne of politics, the father image that all hate to question. He is our leader,

the man we look up to for guidance, for authority, for fairness and righteousness. To hear him weasling around on directing FEMA to cease their plan to hold a phony test of the illegal Shoreham emergency plan is more than a little disappointing, to say the least.

Ronald Reagan is the President of the United States. The President of the United States is the chief executive who, under our constitution, has the power to direct the various agencies to do his will. If we were to believe that the President did not have controlling power over these agencies, or that Congressman William Carney's claims that Congress has no such power are accurate, what we have is a government running wild and loose, out of control. And we would have to believe that George Orwell's 1984 came two years late.

We do not believe our elected officials, our President or our congressmen, are impotent. Weak-kneed, controllable, perhaps, but not impotent. We have come to understand Carney's betrayal of the people as a symptom of his personal weakness, but we find it hard to believe the President is capable of such action.

The people of Long Island are part of the United States. We are afforded protection under the constitution. Our health and welfare are in jeopardy. It is the President's responsibility to protect us. Why is he forsaking us in our hour of need? We deserve an answer, a truthful response rather than political rhetoric.

And why not?

another form of welfare: the political welfare system that puts defeated or retired political figures in high paying governmental positions.

It happens time and time again. The most recent instance is the appointment of former Legislator Pat Heaney, who was rejected by voters last November, to a special deputy county executive position. While the defeat in his bid for reelection might have been a blow to his ego, it was a boost to his pocketbook. His new salary is \$44,000 per year compared to his legislative salary of \$35,000.

Former Legislator Robert LaBua, who chose not to run for reelection, wound up being retained as a consultant in solid waste management to the tune of a \$55,000 retainer. And former Legislator James Morgo, who also chose not to seek reelection, did not go back to teaching as he had first reported. He, too, was appointed as a deputy county executive who will explore the county's housing needs.

The list goes on and on and on. Rumored but not yet confirmed is the matter of a top official for the Off Track Betting Corporation who recently retired, and has been retained as a consultant. If the rumor is true, the retired official will re-

ceive more as a consultant than he did working.

While it may well be that some of those who have benefitted from the political welfare system possess some qualifications for their news posts, the key question is: Are they the most qualified? In most cases the answer is a resounding "no!" In most cases, the chief reason is political.

And the taxpayers foot the bill.

It's time we end this political welfare (said another way--payoff) system. If a new position is needed, it should be filled after a talent search that will bring the best qualifications to the job. If that turns out to be a defeated public official, or a favored political friend, so be it. But it's time to put an end to the farce of putting discarded politicians into responsible positions, often at a higher rate of pay, simply to ease the pain of their political defeat, or as a reward for past political favors.

Those who make such appointments should remember that they are spending taxpayers' dollars, not their own, and taxpayers' dollars should be used in the public's best interest rather than for political payoffs.

This misuse of taxpayers' dollars should be brought to an end!

And why not?

## Safe But Non-Insurable?

The Citizens for Shoreham Electricity, which was once known as the OPEN Shoreham group, has come up with a new campaign. This one is called the "Shoreham Safety Report" which is supposedly a document based on the studies of more than 100 scientists in the nuclear energy field. They conclude: "The Shoreham plant is well-constructed, safe, and ready to begin generating electricity."

There are a number of reasons to question that conclusion, not the least of them the fact that the safety study is not based on an actual hands on inspection of the Shoreham plant. It is based more on the theory of nuclear safety, and a couple of controversial "inspections" which did nothing more than check paperwork at the plant. Did they actually check the welds? The integrity of the construction?

The answer to those questions is obvious when one considers who is financing the activities of Citizens for Shoreham Electricity. According to Jim Blew, spokesman for the group, the contributors include: LILCO, Colt Industries, Courter and Company, Dravo Constructors, Inc., Edison Electric Institute, General Electric Company, General Physics Corp., L.K. Comstock and Company, NUS Corporation, Paine Webber, RTE Corp., Stone and Webster Engineering Corp., builders of the plant until ousted by LILCO, The Okonite Company, Volt Information Sciences Inc., Westinghouse Electric Corp., Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft, First Boston Corp., E.F. Hutton, Citibank, Shearson Lehman/American Express.

The involvement of these firms as financial benefactors or stock-

holders of LILCO or with a connection to the nuclear industry clearly indicates whose point of view the Citizens safety report is expressing.

Ten years or so ago, Herbert S. Denenberg, who was then insurance commissioner for the State of Pennsylvania, made an interesting observation in an article entitled "A Consumers' Guide to Nuclear Non-Insurance." Denenberg said: "You have a right to know what to expect in the way of compensation if and when we have such a nuclear disaster. And we're likely to have one eventually." That was written before 1979, the year the world learned about Three Mile Island, and some previously unspoken truths about nuclear energy. He was right. We did have a nuclear accident. And we will again.

Denenberg's comments focused on the non-availability of insurance coverage concerning nuclear accidents. This is what he had to say:

"If your home is destroyed (or contaminated), don't count on your homeowner's coverage. It has a total exclusion from a nuclear accident."

"If your auto is destroyed or contaminated, don't count on your automobile policy. It has the same type of exclusion as does your homeowner's policy."

It should be noted the same exclusions apply here. The only coverage against nuclear mishaps comes from the federal government, but even that liability is limited.

We have a question for the Citizens to Open Shoreham, now known as the Citizens for Shoreham Electricity: if nuclear

Cont. on page 4

## Political Welfare System

President Ronald Reagan, in his recent State of the Union speech before Congress, called for a sweeping reform of the current welfare system. Echoing the words of Franklin Roosevelt which

proclaimed that welfare "is a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit," Reagan declared, "We must now escape the spider's web of dependency." Those same words could well be applied to

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Rocky Point  
Port Jefferson  
Three Village  
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## The Scenario Continues

Last week's drill of LILCO's emergency evacuation plan for Shoreham was an excellent example of grown people playing children's games. It was a world of make-believe, a world of fantasy with little relationship to the actual real world.

At LILCO's news command center, LILCO officials made frequent announcements of the events of the ongoing drill. It's hard to believe they could do so without laughing. "There is absolutely no panic," declared one official describing the smooth nature of the evacuation of 138,000 imaginary people. How could there be panic? The public was not involved. They moved only on paper in this exercise of fantasy.

The drill scenario, which LILCO, for the most part, developed, offered no room for flexibility. The wind the day of the drill, for example, was out of the west northwest. Logically speaking, that would mean the plume of the imaginary radiation release would travel toward the southeast. That plume would have effectively cut off escape for the residents of eastern Long Island. It should have meant that the evacuation zones in the southeastern area would be the first to be evacuated. They weren't, because the wind in the scenario of the drill was coming from the opposite direction. Which meant, of course, that LILCO knew where to stage their equipment and personnel in order to impress federal evaluators with their quick response.

Last week's drill was little more than a very partial test of a plan which the courts have declared to be illegal. LILCO, the courts ruled, does not have the legal authority to usurp the enforcement powers of police in directing evacuation procedures. So those portions of the drill were simply eliminated. LILCO did not want to sound the evacuation sirens, and that was left

out as well. Make-believe public officials played the roles of local officials without knowing, or apparently caring, how the local officials would respond and react.

We have said all along that the drill was specially designed for LILCO to pass, with a couple of minor corrections needed. That's exactly what happened. The major test of an actual evacuation, movement of people, evacuation of schools, nursing homes and hospitals, will not be tested until the emergency is real. Failures then will result in deaths, immediate or future. It's hard to believe federal agencies, supported by our tax dollars, would have so little regard for human welfare. But that's the way it is.

Now that the drill is behind us, the games should be over. But they're not. Even though the regional director of FEMA declared that the lack of state and local government participation means the plan, according to current regulations, cannot be implemented because FEMA cannot assure the protection of the public's health and safety, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is expected to ignore that finding and give the plant a full power license. The NRC will "presume" that state and local officials will respond in the event of an emergency, and declare the plan workable.

It's a sham, of course. A game that could demand a terrible price in a serious impact on the health and safety of the public. Undoubtedly the matter will go to the courts, where, hopefully, justice will prevail. If there is, indeed, justice, the people's safety will come before the financial interests of the nuclear industry.

It's interesting that the election fraud in the Philippines was in the spotlight at the same time our government's conspiracy to put Shoreham on line was being played out. There's a very real parallel

between the arrogance of the Philippine government in that election process and the actions of our own government in the matter of Shoreham. When the will of the people can be stomped on as it was in the Philippines and as it is in the matter of Shoreham, democracy is in serious trouble.

There's little to do now but wait until the scenario is played out fully. Don't be surprised, however, when the decision comes from the NRC that the future of the nuclear

industry is more important than the safety of Suffolk's people. That will be the day that democracy becomes a figment of our imagination, just as the "safe evacuation" of people was in last week's drill.

That must also mark the day that we finally stand up and say, "We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it any more." And begin to fight to restore democracy in our lives.

And why not?

## Once a Loser

There is a saying in politics that once you are a loser you are always a loser. Suffolk County Republican Chairman Michael Blake seems hell bent and determined to perpetuate this myth.

Blake, who is licking his wounds from a string of stunning defeats, repudiation by the rank and file and the voters at large, seems to be on the verge of taking on another loser. Word reached our office this week that Blake has put the word out to all town chairmen that they are to back William Carney for reelection to Congress. They are to discourage others in the party from seeking this seat.

Carney is held in disrespect by independents, Democrats and Republicans. He is the only elected official from the area of Shoreham serving in Washington who has supported the Long Island Lighting

Company in their quest to open the Shoreham nuclear power plant. At least 70% of his constituents are opposed to the opening of this power plant, yet, Carney has refused to be their representative, their voice in Washington.

Carney barely sneaked by a Republican primary last year against Gregory Blass. He only beat his Democratic opponent in a heavily Republican year by a small percentage. Regardless of loser Blakes' backing, Carney will have an opponent in the Republican primary. We believe the Republicans will throw Carney off the line.

Too bad there could not be a general election for the chairmanship, because we are sure the rank and file who do not have jobs and can't be bullied would give Blake his walking papers too.

And why not?

## Fire Hodel, Reinstate Iacocca

Lee Iacocca was fired from the Statue of Liberty Advisory Commission this past week by Interior Secretary Donald Hodel.

Iacocca is a legend in his time. A colorful personality of immense qualifications who took the Chrysler Corporation from virtual bankruptcy and built it back into one of America's most profitable corporations.

As a public service, Iacocca headed up the commission charged with rebuilding the Statue of Liberty. He has offered the spirit and the symbol for Americans to rally around and behind. He has successfully raised hundreds of millions of dollars to restore the grand old lady, and has instilled a good feeling in most of us about our country and patriotism.

Hodel, who was formerly Ronald Reagan's energy czar, is one of the bureaucrats who has aided and

abetted LILCO in their crass attempt to open the Shoreham nuclear power plant. As Secretary of Energy he did everything in his power to work through loopholes, and circumvent the law, in creating the condition for the opening of the plant. When Hodel left the Energy Department for the Interior, we said good riddance, but now see him as the Interior Secretary creating the havoc in America that he wrought on Long Island.

As far as we are concerned, Hodel is a two time loser. Reagan would be well advised to get rid of him before he makes his next serious blunder, which, if he follows suit, will create an international incident.

Iacocca deserves the thanks of a proud country, not the dismissal by a petty, jealous bureaucrat.

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## Letters to the Editor

### 'Thank you very much'

Dear David:

This is just to thank you very much for your strong support of my effort to get here.

The rollercoaster never seems to stop, and when it does, it's impossible for me to get off anyway!

1986 will be a very unusual political year and I might even survive it.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Blass  
Presiding Officer

## Don't Spoil the Water!

The New York State Legislature, with much fanfare, adopted legislation which mandates the closing of Long Island's landfills by 1990. That action, state legislators declared, was necessary because the local towns were not doing enough to protect the precious water supply that lies beneath sensitive recharge areas. Interestingly, the legislators did not say what the towns should be doing, they provided no solutions or funds to protect the water. They simply said no more landfills and strutted around as if they had solved a major problem.

They didn't. And what's more, in an attempt to put forth another mandate to force the towns into doing what they view as a quick cure, these same legislators have come up with another flawed bit of legislation that could well pollute the water in a deep recharge sector of Brookhaven Town. The legislators, in a politically-inspired move, adopted legislation designed to create one single ashfill site to hold all of Long Island's incinerated garbage. A recent study indicates the site selected for this ashfill is located within a vital deep recharge area, although state "experts" claim the site is just outside of the boundary.

The problem is the original boundary lines for the deep recharge zone were approximate, one of those "Let's see now, why don't we put the southern boundary line here" decisions. The line comes out of the 208 water plan created by County Planner Lee Koppleman. The line was drawn on a motel room floor prior to an important meeting on the 208 study.

If the new study is correct, and the 208 boundary is wrong, the proposed Yaphank ashfill site is, indeed, within the fragile zone. And if that is a fact, the legislators are guilty of total carelessness in the manner in which their legislation rushed into the site selection process. The Environmental Impact Statement is questionable. The site selection

procedure, itself, was designed to pick a single site, not the best site, but a site. The legislation was the product of political manipulation, designed to put all the incinerated garbage in one place to cut down on the opposition from other areas. Nassau legislators were cute in the way they managed to keep the site from their turf. And our local legislators were out-foxed.

In our view, this whole matter should go back to square one. The single site decision should be scrapped. The matter should be more carefully studied, rather than rushed as was the case with the Yaphank selection. We should stop playing games and get on with seeking out the best solution. That's not what we have at the moment.

Few will disagree that the way we dispose of our garbage in the future is a vital issue that must be addressed. But it is not an issue that is going to be solved with state mandates from state officials who know little about the issue. What we need are fewer mandates and more cooperative action between the state and the local towns. We need a task force of state and local officials who will work together. If the state is going to continue to mandate, the state should shoulder the full brunt of the responsibility for solving the garbage crisis.

The current ashfill site controversy is only the tip of the iceberg. The real problems are going to develop when it comes time to site the incinerators. Yes, we know, they are not called incinerators these days, they are resource recovery facilities. But they are what they are, and they are incinerators. When the problems of dioxin and air contamination are raised where these incinerators are proposed to be sited, the real shouting is going to begin.

Thus far the whole idea of resource recovery facilities has become a very good ploy for too many of our public officials to take jaunts to other areas and even other lands

for study missions. It's time the knowledge, if any, learned at taxpayer's expense is put to good use and we get on with the matter of solving the problem instead of using

the garbage crisis as a means of imposing state supremacy over local jurisdictions.

And why not?

## Fast up, Slow Down

A few years back during the scandalous, alleged fuel shortages, every time an Arab burped the price of fuel and gas went up. Within hours after O.P.E.C. announced a new price plateau, the price we paid at the pump went up as well.

Over the past year and a half, the price of crude oil has dropped dramatically from \$33-\$34 a barrel to as low as \$14 per barrel. The retail prices of gas and fuel oil have barely budged. It was argued during the fuel crisis that if the wholesalers sold the less expensive product that they had originally filled their tanks with at less expensive prices, they would have to fill their tanks with a more expensive product and, therefore, were justified in charging the higher prices for the cheaper product. Doesn't the re-

verse of that logic hold true? Shouldn't the prices of fuel oil and gas reflect the 50% drop of the world price for fuel? As we all know, they don't. We're still paying close to what we paid during the OPEC days.

As prices accelerated unmercifully, there was a hue and cry for government intervention and investigation. Some of the major oil companies were caught with their hands dripping and fined billions of dollars. We believe these same oil companies are just as crooked today as they were then, and the federal government should be conducting a full scale investigation to find out why prices are not dropping, and there is no competition between oil companies.

And why not?

## Where is Daylight Saving Time?

Speaking of another failure by Congressman William Carney, one only has to look at the evening sky, still light at 6 p.m., to realize it could be still light at 7 p.m.

Most citizens favor year round daylight saving time, or at least a much shortened standard time schedule. Our time standards are set by congress. We have seen with Shoreham a lot of congressmen, like Bill Carney, do the bidding of the utilities and the big oil companies. The oil companies supply the fuel to the utility companies and the utility companies who sell electricity to the consumers want more hours of darkness and fewer hours of light. They oppose daylight saving time.

Daylight saving time is preferred

by most consumers. It not only saves them money, but there is more of the day to use. Within a few weeks it still will be daylight after supper, but not enough light to utilize. We will have to wait until the end of April for congress to authorize daylight saving time to begin.

We would recommend writing to your congressman and asking for his support. For those of our readers who are in Tom Downey's or Bob Mrazek's district this might help. For those of you who are in Bill Carney's district, we can't see recommending your wasting the time, the energy, or the stamp. His heart is with the utilities. Not the public.

And why not?

## Something is Wrong in Denmark

It isn't Denmark that something is wrong in, it's right here in the U.S., or specifically, in New York.

According to an ad published this past week by the American T & T it cost only \$1.18 to call Denmark during prime time, 71¢ if you call between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. This sounds like a bargain and it probably is, but it is no bargain to call from Riverhead to New York City or from here to Boston, because the charge is almost identical to that of calling Denmark.

As we all have been preoccupied if not obsessed with the incessant LILCO rate increases, our eyes have been taken off the brutal rate increases granted to the New York Telephone Company. The villain is the same in the LILCO case as it is with the New York Telephone Company, the Public Service Commission.

Whatever the monopoly wants, the PSC gives them. After all, the PSC is not answerable to the people, not even to the legislature

or the governor. They thumb their nose at all but the monopolies.

The governor has had it within his power to replace the PSC commissioner who has been so anti-consumer for close to two years. During this time, the PSC has granted unmerciful rate increases to the utilities that have come before them. There is a breaking point for consumers, and we fear we have reached it.

There is something wrong with the logic of the PSC that allows the cost of a call from Riverhead to Denmark to be as much as from Riverhead to New York City. A few hundred miles is not a few thousand miles, and any fool can see that.

Cuomo is off and running for reelection. Before he hits the campaign trails, he should fire PSC Chair Paul Gioia and replace him with a person who weighs the interest of the consumer against those of the utilities.

And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE

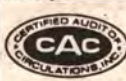
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