



Christmas Thieves

It seems almost unbelievable to us that people would turn to thievery during the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately, some people in our society today have turned their backs on one of the Ten Commandments and have sneakily turned to stealing Christmas decorations in wholesale lots. The village of Westhampton Beach announced, prior to the holidays, that they would not decorate their village streets due to last year's thievery. The electrician who put up the decorations on Main Street of Riverhead reported that the first night the decorations were up over 500 bulbs were stolen along with several whole strings of lights. Residents from all over the East End decided not to put up lawn displays this year or put them inside for the same reason.

From reports reaching this office it appears that the offenders are not just irresponsible kids but are adults who steal to decorate their own homes and to resell the stolen goods to unsuspecting buyers.

We know that lawlessness has been on the rise from reports of increased shoplifting and burglaries, but we had no idea of the proportions it had reached until this Christmas. It appears that too many people have the idea that there is nothing wrong with stealing someone else's property unless they get caught, and even then it's not too bad unless the victim insists upon prosecuting.

To our way of thinking, this whole problem has become more acute because too many people are reluctant to prosecute these lamebrained offenders. They don't want to give up their time for a court hearing, particularly for petty thefts. The courts are way too lenient and the law works in favor of the law-breaker.

The entire attitude on laws and law-enforcement has broken down. No longer does there seem to be the strong moral code to guide us but a deterioration of our moral integrity that tells us to go ahead and get away with whatever we can. Our courts and juries have accelerated this moral breakdown by being too lenient on convicted offenders.

It is obvious to us that the only way to reverse this ugly trend is for society to demand that its members return to a moral way of living and the best way to insure this is for John Q. Citizen to live up to his responsibilities in prosecuting offenders, to enact stronger laws and to insist that our law enforcement agencies and the courts do their job.

We believe that if anybody is caught stealing as simple a thing as a Christmas light bulb he should be prosecuted with the same vigor as one who robs a

bank. Law breaking is not a matter of degree but of right or wrong. To judge a lawbreaker by the degree of his offense only encourages the breakdown of law and order.

Instead of having New Societies and Great Societies it's about time we developed a Responsible Moral Society. How we wish we could have nabbed someone in the act of stealing Christmas decorations off our lawn! And Why Not?



Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have enjoyed reading your little paper, and when you go to bat for something, you seem to get results. I noticed something the other day that deserves attention. Teenagers and young children are not allowed to purchase cigarettes in a store. However, there are cigarette machines around. Saturday afternoon, I noticed a teenager (about 14 or 15) standing near one and looking around. It didn't strike me at the moment and I went out, put my groceries in the car and started out of the parking lot when I saw that boy and two others run off with cigarettes. As the mother of five children, I am concerned about this. Couldn't something be done to get rid of these machines?

Sincerely,
Mrs. Helen K. Stone
Southampton, N.Y.

Re:South Shore Edition
of December 20th, 1967.

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On behalf of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce Inc. may we thank you for the fine photograph of Mrs. Martha Smith greeting guests at the Easthampton Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party.

If there was ever any question regarding the coverage of your paper and its contents, we now have definite proof that even the smallest detail is read carefully by your readers in the Area of Southampton.

Our office telephone has been very busy in the past two days and many questions have been asked of various members of the Chamber.

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SUFFOLK LIFE

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR
Published in five editions weekly. Total circulation
audited and verified to be in excess of 44,000.

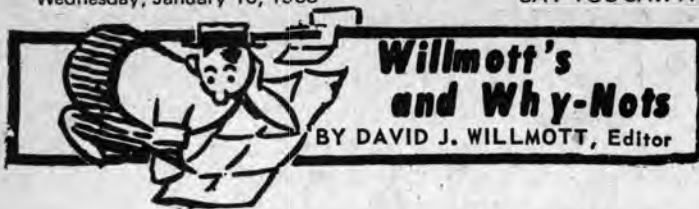
Accepted as a Controlled Circulation Publication at Riverhead

S.W. ADVERTISING SERVICE, PUBLISHER
DAVID J. WILLMOTT, EDITOR & ADV. MGR.
NANCY J. WILLMOTT, SOCIAL EDITOR

SHERMAN B. CHACE, SALES MANAGER
KURT BUSSE, GENERAL MANAGER
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Monsters Of Inefficiency

Last Wednesday, the daily newspapers reported an increase in state taxes for the coming year. Governor Rockefeller made it clear, during his address to the legislature, that more revenue was needed to finance current and future functions of our multi-faceted state government. We are amazed that the Governor is already asking for more money, through higher taxes, when New York voters just okayed a 2.5 billion bond plus interest. This exorbitant 2.5 billion bond plus interest is going to have to be paid for by us and that means more taxes. A big chunk of this huge sum of money is going to finance completion of our current highway program, for example the Long Island Expressway. Other monies are supposed to go for general aviation facilities, subways and improved Long Island Railroad, etc.

Transportation is one of the State's main responsibilities. Shouldn't 2.5 billion dollars in bonds that help finance a major aspect of State government alleviate some of the pressure in other departments? What about the State Lottery that began last year? We realize it has not been as successful as we all hoped it would be, but it must be bringing some revenue. Somehow or other big government always manages to operate at a loss which is becoming more tragic as government, state and federal grows, and so do our taxes.

The average man and woman is fed up with working long, hard hours to have the government take more and more of his salary and not deliver half of what the politicians promise. Both the state and federal government have become monsters of inefficiency. There are many departments whose usefulness expired years ago but still exist with high salaried personnel who sit around and don't do a thing but collect their paychecks. The politicians are well aware of this waste but their power feeds on the number of people indebted to them and so they perpetuate it. Once in government anyone knows the more people you have working for you, the bigger your salary is, and the higher your annual budget is. This road to power is bankrupting government as it grows and grows.

These are but a few of the flagrant abuses of sound management practices that occur daily in government. Governor Rockefeller is an intelligent man who could be an extremely competent administrator. His background in big business is excellent experience to help him run the state as a successful and efficient corporation which operates at a profit for its stockholders - we, the heavily taxed residents of New

York State.

If Governor Rockefeller is truly interested in what is best for New York State, he would push for a Hoover-type commission to study the state government and accept all sound recommendations on efficiency and management. Instead, he asks for more money and higher taxes to perpetuate waste, inefficiency, and slave labor. For it is slavery when one works merely for the state and not for the good of oneself and one's family. Isn't it time to let the politicians know that we will not stand for more taxes and more government. In fact, we will not even put up with the status quo. We want better service at less cost and with less government. And Why Not?

Have You Subscribed?

We wish to thank our readers who have subscribed to Suffolk Life. It is gratifying to learn that people not only enjoy a paper they have received over the past seven years but that our readers value its editorial content enough to buy subscriptions to keep Suffolk Life coming in its present form. As we stated in last week's editorial, our postal rates are going up 280%. This outrageous raise will force us to eliminate all editorial content which includes editorials, letters to the editor, picture coverage of social events, and other pertinent news unless we can qualify for paid second class mail. Right now, Suffolk Life is a controlled free circulation second class newspaper. The new postal bill raises our mailing rates by 280% while first class mail is going up 20%; third class mail by 35%; and paid second class mail by 25%. Suffolk Life must qualify for paid second class mail.

Controlled free circulation newspapers, such as Suffolk Life, have been tough competition for the average weekly newspaper who, for many years, had been the only printed advertising media in its locale. These newspapers had no competition. They didn't have to worry about servicing their accounts and keeping their advertising methods up to date. Then,

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