

**Willmott's
and Why-Nots**

BY DAVID J. WILLMOTT, Editor.

Taxpayers Organizing

The response to our editorials on organizing a taxpayers association or union has been overwhelming. We have had numerous letters from every part of our circulation area. It appears that there is now a basic nucleus of persons interested in forming an effective organization.

It is Suffolk Life's opinion that if an organization of this type is to be effective it should work to create an atmosphere of economy within the existing political structure. If this method is not successful then we would urge the support of a Taxpayers' Party.

What must be done is for citizens, in every hamlet and town in eastern Suffolk, to put together organizations comprised of people of all political persuasions who share the same conviction that pressure must be brought to bear on both parties to reform tax and spending policies. Large numbers of organized taxpayers can publicize their lack of support for unacceptable candidates, they can reform their parties through primary battles and they can eventually take over control of their parties and return them to the people whom they are supposed to represent.

Cynical, self-seeking politicians, due to public ignorance and apathy, too often control the primaries as a means of exercising absolute dominance over their party. As a result, this small clique hand-picks committeemen whom they know will cooperate with its decisions on all matters and not rock the boat. Once the committee is set up, and the clique has control of the party, there is little that can be done to stop its manipulation of the party or to curtail its waste of YOUR tax moneys which are used for patronage. What we must do is to stop the politicians at the primary level and return control of the parties back to ALL members of their respective political persuasions.

1969 should be the year that the fed-up taxpayers take back control of both the Republican and Democratic parties. It can be done if you will organize or

join a taxpayers group in your area and make sure that you play an important part in selecting the committee men for your own district. If you are able to get a committee man into office in your district you will be able to influence the choice of candidate that your party will put up to run your town and county next November. Only in this way - through YOUR effort and through YOUR influence - will you be able to control the tax bill that you are being asked to pay.

If you are interested in starting a taxpayers group in your area or would like to join such a group, we urge you to fill out the coupon below and send it to Suffolk Life. There is enough bitterness and frustration in our county to get a tremendous movement going. Don't let YOUR anger stop with a grumble to a friend or neighbor. Let's get our frustrations organized TODAY! And why not?

I will organize a taxpayers group in my locality

I will work for such a group

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Mail to: Taxpayers Group
Suffolk Life, Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977

What A Year It's Been!

As we look back on 1968 we can say that it has been a good year for Suffolk Life. Display advertising sales have been substantially increased. Classified advertising is up almost two-hundred per cent over 1967. We feel that we have published a better paper - one with more interest and more life - a paper that is well put together and now shows the professionalism that our staff have striven for so faithfully.

We had some "downs", the biggest one being the hardship imposed by a whopping postage increase of 280%. We were able to overcome the first step in this increase through the wonderful response of many of our readers who sent us their subscriptions. These subscription dollars enabled us to pay for almost 25% of the initial postal increase but also caused problems as it just about forced us out of our old home in Riverhead. The substantial increase in record keeping necessitated the hiring of more personnel, and, since we had barely room enough to move around in, we had to halt our campaign to put Suffolk Life on an all - paid subscription basis until we found a new home.

We were fortunate to be able to find a facility in Westhampton that is almost ideally suited to our needs. Having planned to move in July, we were temporarily set back until October due to some minor opposition by certain parties who resisted our efforts to effect a zoning clearance. We moved just prior to the Columbus Day weekend, and, we might add, that

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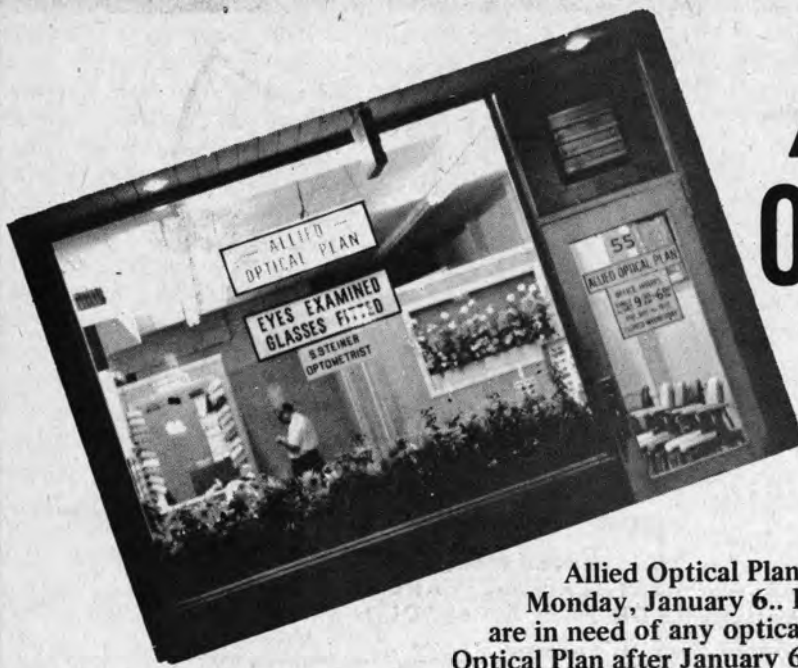
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ALLIED OPTICAL PLAN

Will Re-Open
Monday, Jan. 6th

Allied Optical Plan announces that they will reopen Monday, January 6.. If you have eye glasses to be picked up, or are in need of any optical service, we suggest that you visit Allied Optical Plan after January 6. The staff at Allied Optical Plan and their families take this opportunity to wish for all their patients and friends a most healthy, happy and prosperous holiday season.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU.

ALLIED OPTICAL PLAN

55 West Main St.

Riverhead

PA 7-4411

EDITORIALS from page 3

our Columbus Day issue was put together under very hectic and confused conditions. Then came the Christmas rush, with the tremendous increase in advertising revenue from our Eastern Long Island Shopping Spree, so it is just about now that we are seeing the last of our renovation projects accomplished and the old familiar workaday tempo (described as "race" in the industry) becoming, once again, a familiar pattern. We expect, in the coming months, to re-establish our campaign to put Suffolk Life on a fully paid basis and hope that those, who have not yet sent in their subscription dollar, will feel able to do so.

In many other ways 1968 has been a good year for us. We captured nine major awards in the Awards Competition sponsored by the National Association of Advertising Publishers in Des Moines, Iowa in May. Three of our awards were First Place honors and we thus became, for the second year, the most honored free circulation newspaper in America - an honor we all cherish. We have witnessed the solid growth of many of our valued advertisers through the sustained and creative use of Suffolk Life's advertising pages. We have seen many of our editorials result in action that can only better the way of life for the residents of our area. We have been delighted to give publicity to hundreds of groups and individuals whose efforts for their communities are so deserving and newsworthy.

Yes, we don't have much to complain about in

1968. We have worked out solutions to our problems thanks to the wonderful cooperation of our readers and our advertisers which we hope we have justified. Our staff is the greatest. Their loyalty and cooperation is unbelievable, and we are thankful. We are grateful to everyone who remembered to say that they "Saw It In Suffolk Life" and for doing what they could to make Suffolk Life the widely - read newspaper that it is today. God bless you all in 1969. And why not?

Happy New Year!

We hope that 1969 is a shining year for everyone in Suffolk Life country. We wish all our readers, our advertisers and our staff health, happiness and prosperity in the next twelve months. Happy New Year to all! And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It seems that our county politicians have adopted the state-wide motto: Procrastination is the Key to Success.

Your editorial, "We've Been Had", illustrates the dissension in the ranks; perhaps the supervisors would do well to reappraise their eroding foundations.

We, the taxpayers, must unite in an effort to halt the wanton spending sprees of our "representatives".

I belong to the 95%; I am a taxpayer, and I am screaming.

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The Real Culprit

We all like to blame our rising taxes on welfare. The politicians and the public alike look for the easiest target and strike out blindly. Welfare is full of abuses and is the one thing that can raise our emotions to a peak, particularly when we see some capable man not working and taking money from us to support his family; when we see unwed mothers with ten or twelve children insultingly telling us it is their right to have as many children as they wish and it is our duty to support them; when we see a top heavy welfare administration wasting our tax dollars, hiding behind privileged information to cover up abuses, and demanding and getting salary increases. There are abuses and without a doubt the 8,000% increase in the welfare budget over the last 11 years is one of the main reasons for the taxpayers' rebellion now.

Yes, welfare is one of the big reasons, but if you look at your tax bill for the coming year you will see that over half of your taxes go to schools. Over one half of the tax dollars you spend are used to support the educational system in your locality. The skyrocketing costs of education have kept pace with those of welfare. Some of these orbiting costs have been needed to provide adequate education, but others have been nothing more than one great waste. Fifteen years ago a school teacher was started at about \$2,000 a year. This was hardly a fit salary for a man to support his family. Since then this has been rectified and today the average salary in most east end districts is in the neighborhood of \$11,000 to \$13,000. This is only part of the salary when you consider that an educator is only allowed by law to teach 5½ hours a day, is given a three-month vacation with pay, has adequate sick leave and other fringe benefits. In some districts teachers are granted sabbatical leave after three years (usually one full year and in most cases with pay) for such reasons as furthering his education or traveling. In one district, if he is just plain tired. A teacher's job is guaranteed after three years. No matter what kind of a job he does, he receives annual pay increases plus additional raises if he takes summer courses and secures additional degrees. In addition, many teachers in New York State attended state teachers colleges, which means their education was greatly subsidized by the taxpayers.

The rising cost of our educational system is probably the biggest single reason for the exorbitant taxes we are being made to pay today. Yet we persist in treating our school system as we did in the 1800's. No business, not even the government itself, would dare operate the way schools are operated. They

operate at less than 50% efficiency, but they are spending 100% of the budget allotted to them. The school buildings and the teachers are utilized only 190 days per year. Most schools are used for educational purposes only 5½ hours a day. Yet the teacher gets a full year's salary and the cost of the school buildings is for a full 365 days.

Historically, schools closed in the summer so that pupils could work on the family farm. This was necessary because America was a rural farm country and the children had to share the work load of planting and harvesting. We have long outlived this stage in our history but the archaic system of closing schools for three months has persisted. This is the reason your tax bill for schools is twice as high as it needs to be. We are paying teachers for a full year's work. Why not use it? We are paying for buildings and facilities for 365 days a year and yet only use them 190 days. No business would dare to operate this way and show a profit. Yet we stand by, in the face of our huge tax bill, and allow this waste of trained manpower and high-priced buildings.

This coming year the taxpayers in many districts are being asked to expand and add new school buildings at phenomenal cost. Meanwhile, teachers are negotiating with school boards for bigger and more expensive contracts. The skyrocketing cost of education has to be halted, yet we cannot afford to deny our children the education they need for their future. A compromise must be reached. To this publication the only feasible compromise is to put schools on a regular 8-hour a day basis and to keep them open the 12 months of the year. Utilizing a tri semester system with summer sessions would increase the productivity of the schools by almost 100 per cent. The buildings would then be returning a full year's use for a full year's cost and teachers would be working a full year for a full year's pay.

We urge you to approach your school board with this idea and to write to your legislators in Albany asking them to investigate and support such a plan. In the meantime go to your school board and demand that they hold the line on school costs in your district. Encourage them to meet with representatives of other districts before negotiating new contracts so that they

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**january
clearance sale**

**UP
TO 50% off**

Wools and synthetics from our
regular stock—all 54" to 60" wide.

PRICED FROM
\$2⁰⁰
YD.

Cantin Fabrics
"The Yardstick Of Fine Fabrics"
301 East Main St., Riverhead

YOUTH FAIR

removal sale

**REDUCTIONS UP TO
50% ON ENTIRE
WINTER STOCK**

BOYS' WINTER JACKETS	GIRLS' WINTER JACKETS	BOYS' & GIRLS' SNOW SUITS
\$9⁹⁹ UP	\$5⁹⁹ UP	\$10⁹⁹ UP



All Farah & Billy the Kid slacks reduced. All Donmoor & Model shirts reduced. All Girls dresses from Youngland Moppets, Ruth of Carolina reduced up to 50%.

WE WILL BE MOVING TO LARGE BEAUTIFUL QUARTERS NEXT TO SINGER AROUND FEBRUARY 1st. WATCH FOR GRAND OPENING.

YOUTH FAIR

134 East Main St., Riverhead 727 - 3330

EDITORIALS from page 3

do not open themselves to unyielding pressures as they have in the past. It's a good idea to attend as many school board meetings as you can. Let your board members know how you feel. Let them know that you care for the job they are doing and that you are interested in the educational system in your district and in the taxes you are being asked to pay.

We must have a good educational system in our communities but we must also have educational systems that we can afford. To achieve both it is going to take a variety of imaginative ideas that will make our school systems more productive and a more keenly interested and active citizenry. Get involved in your school; be aware of what is going on and state your opinion to school board members so that they may know how you feel and how you will react to their course of action. And why not?

Taxpayers Uniting

In the coming two weeks we will meet with several individuals interested in starting taxpayers groups in their area. Plans of action are now being formulated and a general call for members will go out soon.

There are still several communities that are not represented. If you are tired of seeing your taxes go up, we urge you to take an active part and form a com-

mittee in your community. If you will fill in the coupon below and send it to Suffolk Life, we will give you detailed information on how to go about forming taxpayer group. In unity there is strength and through sensible utilization of strength we can control the cost of all facets of government. And why not?

I will organize a taxpayers group in my locality

I will work for such a group

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Mail to: Taxpayers Group
Suffolk Life, Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Thank you for printing the Christmas Seal Campaign reminder. It means so much to us.

Sincerely,
Frank J. Gibson
Executive Secretary
Suffolk County Tuberculosis and
Public Health Association



Real Culprit

Last week we tried to pinpoint one of the main reasons for the high taxes we are being forced to pay - namely, the cost of education. On January 6, 1969 the educational section of Newsday, citing comparisons from the annual report, "Estimates of School Statistics," published by The Research Division of the National Education Association, New York, compared the cost of education per pupil throughout the United States. It pointed out that it costs New York state almost double that of any other state to educate a child. In New York the cost is \$1140 while the national average is \$680. We wondered if the disparity in cost per pupil were so because New York provided a higher quality of education, but the article also brought out that California spends only \$697 per pupil while, as we have been told, California provides an education that is superior to the rest of the nation and one which, in many cases, surpasses New York schools. The California figure is particularly interesting when you consider that its average teacher salary is \$500 more per year than the New York average.

The article pointed out that New York State has more non-teaching personnel than any other state - even more than California which tops New York in numbers of students. It appears that, as in other aspects of New York state government, we have allowed our schools to become top-heavy in administrative personnel and budgeted for too many non-essentials, and this is what could be responsible for our heavy tax load.

When education consumes over one-half of our local real estate taxes, plus a sizeable chunk of other revenues, it is time for our elected officials in Albany to investigate the whys and wherefores. It is obvious that we are not turning out students with twice the education of the rest of the nation's students. Why then should we be paying double what it costs the rest of the nation to educate them?

We have all been too lax in scrutinizing the costs of educating our children. We have, all too often, blindly followed the recommendations of education officials who say that this is needed or that is needed. The "sacred cow" aspect of our educational system has intimidated our elected officials for too long. Our citizens don't realize that when they vote on a proposed school budget they are really voting on only about 10% of the proposed budget recommendations, 90% of the budget requirements are mandated items that will still go into effect whether the residents of a school district want them or not. We are not given

the opportunity of voting on a school budget by item or by unit. Instead, we have to take it as a package - like it or not. Historically, if, by chance, a school budget is defeated then the same budget, with minor modifications, is put up to the voters again and again until finally, worn down in frustration and desperation, they vote it in.

We think that all of New York's educational system needs a thorough looking into and going over. The reasons why it costs almost double the national average to educate our students must be found and the waste eliminated.

Our children deserve the best education that we can provide them, but we also must be able to live with our tax burden. These are two goals that must be accomplished. This is the challenge of 1969. And why not?

Flim Flam

Last week we were treated to a nice bit of political flim flam when Governor Rockefeller, in his State - of - the - State message, asked for a five per cent across - the - board cut in state spending. Of course we don't object to the five per cent cut, but we must bear in mind that he coupled this recommendation with a request for a raise in the state's sales tax from two to three per cent. Well, the political plot of asking for economies, while socking it to the public, is an age - old tradition. Let's see: A three per cent state sales tax, plus a two per cent county sales tax, plus exorbitant Federal Income Taxes with a continuation of the "temporary" income tax surcharge on top of that, plus all of the hidden taxes, plus an increase in Social Security taxes plus a loss of spendable income due to inflation all add up to the fact, good people, that we are all being had with a capital "H."

Well, out here in eastern Suffolk there is a movement afoot. Hundreds of irate citizens have responded to our pleas for the formation of protest groups in every village and town. Organized, dedicated and informed protest against our spiraling tax problem is the only way that we are going to halt these onerous

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JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

6 PIECE SOLID PINE LIVING ROOM

Sofa, Chair, Rocker, REG. NOW \$449
3 Tables. \$569

PULASKI 9 PIECE DINING ROOM

Mediterranean/Contemporary, Buffet, China Top, REG. NOW \$549
Extension Table, 6 chairs. \$689

BASSETT 5 PC. ITALIAN BED ROOM SET

Triple Dresser, Mirror, REG. NOW \$347
Chest, Bed, 2 Tables. \$489

BROYHILL 5 PC. BAR BED BEDROOM SUITE

Complete Set - Dresser, REG. NOW \$595
Mirror, Chest, Bar Bed, \$699
2 Night Tables.

SAVE 20 to 50 %

This is our big January sale. We must make room on the floor and in our warehouse for large spring deliveries. Drastic reductions on many items throughout the store. Hurry, this is your chance to have that beautiful furniture you have always wanted at great savings.

ALL ROOM SIZE RUGS
PLUS BROADLOOM
REDUCED FOR THIS SALE

HUNDREDS OF
INDIVIDUAL PIECES
SLASHED FOR QUICK
CLEARANCE

BEDDING IN ALL SIZES
COMPLETE IN STOCK
SELECTION FROM 33"
TO QUEEN & KING SIZES

LAZY BOY RECLINER ROCKERS

IN STOCK SALE FROM \$139.95

96 INCH CLAYTON MARCUS

All Pillow Back Custom REG. NOW \$365
Quilted Sofa. \$500

PINE - MAPLE - WALNUT BEDROOM COORDINATE UNITS

PRICES STARTING AS LOW AS \$49.95

FRENCH PROVINCIAL GOLD TRIMMED SOFA

Hand Tufted REG. \$483 NOW \$349

Bertson Furniture Co. Inc.
RIVERHEAD'S FINEST

319 EAST MAIN STREET, RIVERHEAD PA 7-4580

EDITORIAL from page 3

taxes. We urge you to contact us and lend your support to this army of burdened taxpayers who have had enough. Fill out the coupon below and take the first step in making your voice heard for fiscal sanity. And why not?

- I will organize a taxpayers group in my locality
- I will work for such a group

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Mail to: Taxpayers Group

Suffolk Life, Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Wilmott,

With regard to your current campaign for the organizing of Taxpayer Units to combat the very undesirable "goings On" of our "Elected Representatives", may I say that you are to be commended. However, you are now doing something that the

Speonk Civic & Taxpayers Association Inc., has been trying to do for the past two years, namely to get the already established "Civic Groups" to get together and undertake some form of concerted action to impress upon our Southampton Board of Trustees and their satellite Boards, and also the County Elected Representatives the dire need that we have for honesty in government coupled with economy in Administration. To this end, we contacted the Suffolk County Taxpayers Association almost two years ago, for a listing of such Civic Groups as might exist in the Township. We received no reply to our communication so proceeded to circularise such Groups as we already knew. The apathy we encountered was terrific - - most Groups leaders seeming to be afraid of "Bucking" the Establishment in case of reprisals of some kind or another. The only exception that we found, was the then President of the East Quogue Taxpayers Association, who has since then, retired from office. In the last local election, I personally ran for the office of Supervisor (against my better judgement, I might say) on the ticket of "Absolute Honesty" in Government. The result of that election would seem to indicate that the electorate wasn't interested in anything except the preservation of the Status Quo either from ignorance of the facts, or in great fear that they might "get it in the neck" if they voted for any other than the aforesaid Establishment. My wife and I were astounded to find during our canvassing trips, how much this fear had penetrated into the lives of the voters and I understand that this fear was also encountered by many of the canvassers of the "Other Party" in the election, and this mark you, in the U. S. A. in the year 1967 AD.

It would seem to this writer that the only solution to a condition of this kind would be exactly what you are proposing - - A Militant and aroused Electorate, determined to put an end

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An Open Letter

Dear Assemblyman Duryea:

We are writing to remind you that seven out of ten of the residents here in this part of Suffolk County would prefer to have it Peconic County. This is the way they voted in the last election, the same election in which you were reelected and which has enabled you to become Assembly Speaker.

Many of your constituents voted for you because they felt that you were the one best qualified to make their wishes come true. These people feel very strongly on this issue and they have good reason to. Their whole way of life, as you know, is jeopardized by the Supreme Court ruling that has brought about the one man - one vote principle of county representation. You know, as well as we do, what this is going to do out here. You know what that costs are going to be. We believe you also know that this is going to cost us one of the most valuable segments of our population - the senior citizen. They are being taxed right out of this area. The taxes they must pay for services they do not need are more than they can afford, and they will have to find other places to live.

The only way we can continue to enjoy the way of life we want with any hope of governmental economy is for the county to be split. The only way this is possible is for you to do it.

Yes, Assemblyman Duryea, we believe that you hold the key. You have it within your power to make this a reality. We are sure you can get the bill through the assembly if you want to OR you can let it die in committee. It is the job of an Assembly Speaker to get any bill he wants passed or killed on the floor. You have demonstrated, in the past, an uncanny sense of politics and a wise use of power. This is evidenced in your superb rise to power in the assembly in 8 short years.

As you know, Mr. Duryea, persons of all political persuasions feel very strongly on this issue. They are watching what you do very closely. They are waiting for you to make your move. They are waiting for you to work this bill through committee onto the floor and they are looking to you to do all that you can to guarantee its passage with the blessings of the governor.

Yes, your constituents are watching and waiting. They all wish you well with your added responsibilities and powers as Assembly Speaker but they will not be very impressed unless you are able to accomplish the one thing they want.

Assemblyman Duryea, we know you will do what the residents of this area want as that is what you

were elected to do. We hope that you are working on this now and that you have already made good progress. And why not?

Signed,

David J. Willmott, Publisher

P.S. We have enclosed a sign for your office. It reads "REMEMBER PECONIC COUNTY" the home of the first assembly district.

Fact and Fiction

We view the recent "State of the State" address by Governor Rockefeller as a message of both fact and fiction . . . It's a fact that he has asked for a three per cent state sales tax (total 5% in Suffolk), and it is a fact that he has asked for a 5% cut in state spending. The fiction is that he knows, as well as all followers of politics, that the 5% cut will never become a reality. This is an old political trick - talking economies to lull the voters into a sense of complacency while extracting more money from them in the form of taxes. He will probably get his 1% increase in the state sales tax, but he knows that all local governments, including that of New York City, and every school board in the state will cry out in anguish that they cannot survive on a five per cent cut - that such a cut would cause financial chaos in their districts. The result will be that extraheavy lobbying and pressure will be brought to bear on the legislature to keep the status quo thus perpetuating the fat and waste that typifies New York state government and making it the highest taxed state in the union.

Our assemblyman from this district, who is also the Assembly Speaker and the second most powerful political figure in state government, has already stated that he looks upon the 5% cut in state spending with a dim view, particularly when it comes to determining the effects of this cut upon schools and local governments. Without his wholehearted support and diligent efforts a 5% cut in spending is virtually impossible. It is our opinion that, knowing the feelings of those who put him in office, he should push for this cut and then some more. We would think that he would be vitally interested in finding out why it costs New York state almost double the national average per

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year to educate a pupil. We would think that he would be pushing hard to control and reduce the outlandish welfare costs in this state. We would think that he would push for the proposal to make the maximum welfare grant to any family, regardless of circumstances, the same as the minimum wage for forty hours of work less normal deductions. This, coupled with a residency law or reverse residency law, by which welfare recipients coming from other states could not get any more in welfare that they could from their home state, would reduce the masses of indigents that flood New York each year for the instant dole. It would also encourage those who can work, but find it more profitable not to, to become productive citizens once again. Both of these proposals could control welfare costs.

A third way to control the cost of government is to eliminate unnecessary government jobs. As Mr. Duryea well knows, being a master politician, many government jobs are created solely for patronage purposes. Let him show his courage by striving to eliminate those jobs under his control and demanding that all others follow his example.

When he has done these things, and others that are more obvious to him, to reduce state spending, then let him say that we cannot afford to cut expenses anymore. Then we will be in a far more receptive frame of mind for a 1% increase in the sales tax — BUT NOT ONE DAY BEFORE. And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your recent editorial regarding rising costs in education is a most misleading and erroneous composition. While it is true that education costs are expanding at a tremendous rate, your finger of guilt points to the wrong area. Improved materials and resources, increased building and land costs, and increased cost of living are all factors in this high price for education. And why not? Our children deserve the best that can be provided, and by "best," I include teachers foremost. Your willingness to sacrifice teachers' salaries as a panicky solution to a difficult problem is just the attitude that will further force the college students to turn to professions offering greater remunerations and attract those who are the weak, hack teachers seeking nothing more than a job.

What you and so many others fail to realize is that the real culprit as you call it is the State Legislature with its antiquated aid formulas and its incongruous and derisive legislation that forces costs up and places the responsibility for these costs more and more on local government. As an example, the average cost per year to educate one youngster is about \$900 or more. Yet, our schools receive aid from the State based on a formula that allows only \$760, even though the Board of Regents themselves recommended at least \$860 per pupil. Here is your real culprit! This is where your voices should be directed, not at all the too frequently targeted teacher. Write the

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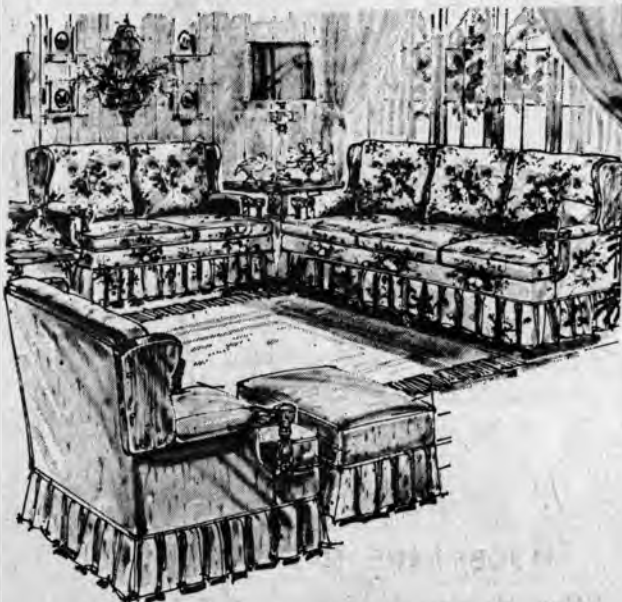
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We Shall Fight

The Suffolk taxpayers are organizing at last. Tuesday evening, January 20th, taxpayers from the six eastern towns, who had expressed their willingness to form taxpayer groups within their local communities, met at the Suffolk Life office for an organizational meeting. Thus was born the United Taxpayers of Suffolk County. The purpose of and the reason for the formation of such an organization were set down, and a plan of attack was laid out.

It was unanimously agreed that we are living in an age of organization and that those who are organized get what they demand and those who are not get the bills. The tax bills that we are being forced to pay are ruining many of our residents, particularly those who are on fixed incomes, and something must be done to halt the inflation of taxes. It was felt that by setting up a united taxpayers organization in every community, every school district and every election district and by uniting on a county level, government could be returned to the people to whom it belongs. One of the reasons why the cost of government is so high and why taxes have skyrocketed so alarmingly is because the average person has refused to become involved in his community affairs. It is all very well to hate high taxes but obviously there is no way to reduce taxes or to effect economies in government without raising one's voice and joining with other like-minded people to raise a mighty collective protest that will make the halls of government shudder. The United Taxpayers of Suffolk County will give each and every resident a voice of protest and an avenue for involvement.

It was decided that a taxpayers' group could be more effective if it was operated as a pressure group rather than as a political party. The United Taxpayers of Suffolk will encourage all members to be active within the political party of their choice but they will be united in the belief that government must be run on a sound fiscal basis.

Local taxpayer groups will be organized in each community. They will have a chairman who will also act as a county delegate. The county will be divided into districts, each of which will be comprised of several local groups, and district leaders will be chosen. It was felt that, by having local groups, this organization can be effective in all affairs both on the local and school district level as well as on the county level. Mr. Robert Lehr of Eastport was selected as temporary chairman of the United Taxpayers of Suffolk County and area representatives volunteered their services within various local communities.

The membership drive, that Suffolk Life staged recently, is gathering momentum. The goal of this drive is to enlist, as members, every person in Suffolk County who pays any form of taxes. Young and old alike have a stake in the future of Suffolk County. The programs through which the politicians spend money, the taxes by which they collect money and the administrative offices which distribute money all bear the closest scrutiny. We have a goal of registering 50,000 members in the organization in the six eastern towns. The sooner we reach this goal the sooner we can begin to exert real pressure where it will do the most good in saving YOU, the taxpayer, money.

Printed on page 4 of this edition is an application blank for membership in the United Taxpayers of Suffolk County. We hope that you will fill it out immediately and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Suffolk Life has volunteered its services, temporarily, to coordinate the membership activities until committees can be formed to take over this function. We will see to it that all applications are forwarded to the respective chairmen of each community group.

Now, everyone has an opportunity to stand up and be heard. Here is your chance to do something besides complain about the high cost of taxes. If you want the kind of government you can afford join your local taxpayers group and become active in its operation.. Through unity, government can be returned to the people and taken out of the hands of the giveaway politicians. Join up NOW! And why not?

Racing Death

Very early one morning, recently, we witnessed a scene that we knew was inevitable. Shortly after 3:30 AM this editor found himself standing over two badly broken bodies. Nearby, stood an unbelievably twisted mass of metal that three minutes before had been an automobile. Two injured victims remained trapped within the wreckage. The road on which this atrocity occurred was not the open highway or a deserted back road; it is a quiet residential street. It is

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TAXPAYERS BRACE FOR BATTLE From page

Expressing his views as well as many others on the north fork is Lloyd Hamilton of Mattituck.



From North Patchogue came Wesley Steuber and his party of interested taxpayers.

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EDITORIAL From page 3

quiet, that is, until the whining roar of a motor and the tortured squeal of accelerating rubber shatters the night air and signals the approach of another drag racing contest. This road is used regularly as a drag strip. Whether or not this car was racing is unknown.

It was not too long ago that we were young. We know the temptation of wanting to prove yourself, and we know that, to some boys, a fast car is a way of doing it. A public road is no place to do it. Whether it be racing from one bar to the next or dragging on a back road or residential street — these roads are not built for dragging or racing. There are other people on these roads besides yourselves, people that probably don't have the reflexes that you have. Sometimes they can get out of your way; sometimes they panic and do the unexpected. Road conditions can change in a matter of moments. You may race over a road many times and be able to control your car in every instance. You may be able to take a particular curve at ninety miles an hour ten times in succession but the eleventh time finds a patch of frost on that curve and the lack of traction puts your car into a skid that you can't recover from.

There are two drag strips here on eastern Long Island — two strips that were engineered and built for racing. Use these for your racing. Use the roads for transportation; that is what they are meant for. You are not proving your manhood or masculinity by dragging on residential streets or near other populated areas; you are only demonstrating your irresponsibility which is a sign of immaturity and you are putting your own life, as well as the lives of innocent people, in jeopardy.

We only wish that every boy and man, who believes that our public roads are for racing, could have seen what we saw on that early Saturday morning. And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Gentlemen,

It has become bad, very bad with the Taxes in Suffolk County. I have bought a small, 2 bedroom house a few years ago with the idea to retire here in the near future. We spent our weekends, holidays, vacations ever since and invested for improvements of the old little house. But the Taxes went up 400 - 500 - 600 and now \$800. I don't even care to give my name and address; a mad tax assessor may cut it out and fix me good!

But this is not the main reason I wanted to write. I have relatives and friends. A few came out to Suffolk and bought, like me, retirement houses. They regret it and say "New York became the Strike City" and Suffolk County the "Welfare County." Stay away or move away. I know a few businessmen who sold real estate and businesses and moved out of "New York State." And I have been told, that this trend is growing. Retired people will stay out of Suffolk and many business

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