

Willmott's and Why-Not

BY DAVID J. WILLMOTT, Editor

State of the Citizen

At the beginning of the year major political officeholders give their annual "State of the Something" addresses. These speeches reflect the conditions, as the politicians see them, in their particular constituencies and provide an opportunity for them to stipulate goals and programs they would like to see accomplished during the year. We receive these annual addresses with the feelings we usually reserve for Santa Claus. It is one thing to think about the largess of our politicians, but, like Santa's goodies, everything must be paid for with our dollars. We would like to offer our own "State of the Citizen" comments which, from the thousands of cards and letters we receive from you all year, seem to reflect your viewpoints and hopes for 1970.

We enter the new decade with thankfulness and apprehension. We are thankful that we have been spared and have another opportunity to tackle the problems that face us; we are apprehensive that we may have come too far to turn around and solve the problems that beset us before it is too late.

All but approximately 4% of us are employed. Most of us enjoy relatively good health and are able to find some tranquility in this busy world. We are making more money than we were a year ago but we are able to buy less because inflation and the tax bite have eaten into our useable dollars. This is a huge problem. We have done what the politicians have asked us to do, that is, spend less, particularly on major items, yet inflation gallops on. Now, we must point the finger at big government and say "You are the one responsible for the erosion of our dollars." "You must take action before we are all bankrupt." Government must reduce its spending; it must stop buying, it must stop increasing salaries and it must stop creating new government programs and jobs. Since government is far and away the largest spender in our economy, if such action is not taken, then there is nothing that we as individuals or businesses can do to control inflation.

On taxes, we do not enjoy paying them but we realize that certain taxes are necessary if we are to have sound government. The point is that we pay far more than we should. As a people we are being exploited all out of proportion to our ability to pay. Our tax money is squandered through useless programs, giveaways and just plain gross inefficiency. The incredible wastefulness of our government is costing us more than hard dollars; it is robbing us of our self-sufficiency and individual initiative. 40% of our work week goes for taxes to support schemes that we neither asked for nor want. To those who would say that we are well on the way to socialism we would observe this - you are only half right; we are already there. Unfortunately, tax reform

is not the only answer. Tax revolt is an imminent probability, and we look for a great upsurge in taxpayer suits and organized taxpayer resistance during the 70's.

On education, let us determine the type of education we want for our children in our own communities - at a cost that we can afford. It goes without saying that we all recognize the value of education. For the best that we can provide our children we must be ready and willing to pay generously. We desperately need better educated sons and daughters for their future and for the future of this country. What we don't need is some highly paid bureaucrat in Albany to tell us how we are going to educate our children and how many square feet we must provide for the broom closets in our local schools. We are intelligent parents who know that we must provide the best that we can within our means. We do not like to have to turn down school budgets and make our children suffer, but too much power has fallen into the hands of agencies such as the state education department. School budgets which include wasteful frills in new construction and programs of dubious value must be voted down. To invest money in waste is wrong, yet our governmental agencies invest in it every day by the bushelful. To saddle future generations with indebtedness that could have been avoided is wrong, yet we do just that every time we approve something without question. Give us the power to run our schools as we see fit and we will educate our children better at less cost.

On law enforcement, we want a society that is safe. We want laws that are based on common sense and on the common agreement that the preservation of freedom is the last best hope of mankind. These laws must be enforced strictly without special consideration given to any person or group of people. Our democracy gives us the machinery to change laws if they do not work for the good of the majority. We should not expect to be coddled and do not wish to coddle anyone else. We support those whose rights and constitutional guarantees have been abused, no more, no less. The law should apply equally to all. We need better enforcement of existing laws. The past decade has seen too many so-called "reform laws" enacted. Rather than limiting itself to the equal protection of the inherent rights of free and responsible human beings, already on the books,

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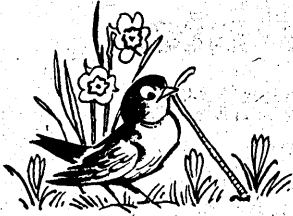
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Spring
has already
sprung
here!

At least, it's in full bud at FLAXMAN'S. In addition to our busy store on the Circle, we have bought a whole building nearby and are designing and decorating it to be the most beautiful 3 - story showcase of fine furniture and home furnishings in Eastern Long Island.

Here, you'll see everything set up for your Home Beautiful. From floor to ceiling, completely furnished living rooms, dining areas, bedrooms, bathrooms, working kitchens, fun rooms, nurseries, dens and outdoor living. All so attractive you'll want to move right in! It will all be ready this Spring.

"But it's only January! What does this mean to me, right now?"

Plenty! To make room for this big expansion and all the striking new merchandise, everything we have now must move out. Everything, and that's a lot. In many cases, you may be able to name your own price - - at least come in and bargain with us. We're "easy marks" right now. But hurry, while the weather is cold and the "move-out" values are hot!

"Everything for your Home Beautiful"

FLAXMAN'S

RIVERHEAD
On The Traffic Circle
727-2355

PATCHOGUE
400 W. Main St.
475-3347

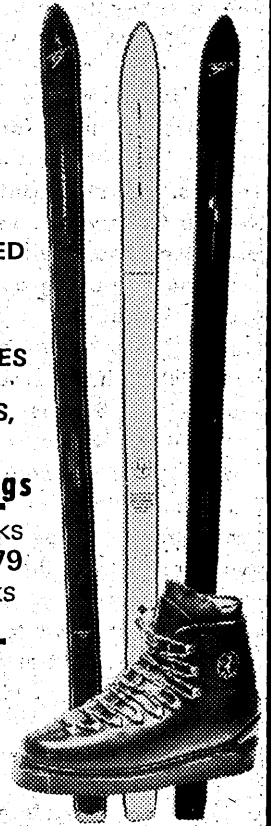
SKI Equipment

Largest Selection
In Eastern Suffolk

SKIS - BEGINNER TO ADVANCED
SKI BOOTS ALL SIZES
AFTER SKI BOOTS - LARGE
SELECTION
POLES & BINDERS - ALL TYPES
CAR TOP CARRIERS
SKI JACKETS, PANTS, GLOVES,
GOGGLES

All Discounted for Savings

ICE SKATES	HOCKEY STICKS
Childrens reg. \$6.98 4.98	reg. \$2.99 1.79
Adults reg. \$16.98 14.98	HOCKEY PUCKS 49¢
JUST ARRIVED! NEW SHIPMENT! CONVERSE ALL STAR BASKET BALL SNEAKERS	ICE SKATE GUARDS 79¢



EDWARDS DISCOUNT CENTER

East Main St. and Route 58. RIVERHEAD 727-4418

should remain exclusively our own. We would ask our lawmakers to bear this in mind when they are tempted to legislate morality. Don't try to tell us what to do; let us act according to our own conviction and conscience.

On the narcotic problem, much needs to be done both in the private and the public sector. Our leaders have been ineffective in their handling of this problem, but the answer lies not with our politicians alone. Ours can be a deeply frustrating society in many ways, and many of those who feel overwhelmed by it turn to drugs for escape. Parents should try harder to understand their children's problems (and vice versa, we might add), heavier concentrations of public information on the narcotic peril should be instituted and enforcement of existing laws must be vigorous.

On housing, we need more for the simple reason that there are more people. We don't feel that we should be forced to provide more houses for people out of our tax dollars. We think that our politicians should return the interest rates to their previous positions and make more money for housing available in this state. Then we will be able to solve this problem. Many of us would like to step up to a better home, but we don't want to give up our relatively comfortable 4% to 6% mortgages for 7% to 9% mortgages, so we sit back and wait and there is less turnover in older homes, thus a housing shortage. Make money available at fair interest rates and you will see much of the housing problem alleviated.

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our government has unbalanced our system by penalizing the producer and rewarding the "free rider" who consumes more than he produces. Thus the flow of creative human energy slows as these new laws permit more and more unearned withdrawals from the stream of goods and services provided by the producers. Law should "protect" not "enrich".

On legislating morals, that is unnecessary. Most of us believe in some form of God. A recent survey pointed out that 98% of us do. Every major religion has a basis in some moral or ethical code similar to the Ten Commandments. Our morality and our religion are intensely personal, and the responsibility for them

EDITORIALS from page 4

On business, we need an economic climate that permits us to make decent profits. We need a government that permits a businessman to keep more of his profit rather than forcing him to pay most of it into taxes. Here in New York State this is particularly serious. Just recently we read of a manufacturer in Nassau County who is moving his operation to Florida. His taxes there will not exceed \$4000. In New York State he is paying over \$500,000 annually. How many people will be out of a job because of this move? Then multiply this by the thousands of jobs that go begging because of the businesses that will never come to our state - all because of the repressive tax situation.

Lastly, we can only say that there are many other subjects, too numerous to mention, which you, our readers comment on frequently. Over and over again, the same feeling crops up in the letters we receive from you and that is, that you feel so insignificant in this huge bureaucratic, big government state of ours. We urge our politicians to remember that we are individuals and we believe that the least government is the best government. If you do not legislate a lot of bills this year, we will not be unhappy. We don't want a lot of government, just honest, good government. And why not?

**LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR
PAGE 8/12**

Here's the event you've been waiting for

WENDY FABRIC SHOPS

ANNUAL WOOLEN SALE!

Here is the event you have been waiting for. ..Wendy fabric shop's annual woolen sale. Yes, practically Wendy's entire stock of woolens now on sale for just

\$2.50
yd.

Woolens for which you formally paid \$3.95 to \$4.95 a yard now only \$2.50 a yard.

Choose from hundreds of bolts of tweed, plaids flannels, wool, crepe, felts and jerseys. Yes every type of woolens you can think of. . . Luxurious woolens for coats, suits, skirts, slacks, and dresses and now on sale just \$2.50 a yard
SALE STARTS

SATURDAY JAN. 17th.

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Riverhead Shopping Plaza

ROUTE 58

PA 7-3527

**mid-winter
clearance
of fine
women's shoes**

Were \$10. to \$23.

**6.99 to
16.99**

Sizes 4 to 11
AAAA to C
but not every
color and style

Foot Tree

30 JOBS LANE, SOUTHAMPTON

(Opp. Parrish Museum) AT 3 - 2450

**half yearly
clearance of men's
FLORSHEIM**

Were to 34.95

A wonderful selected grouping at

17.80 to 24.80

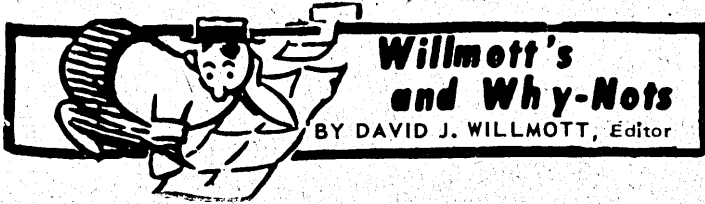
ALSO ROBLEE, HUSH PUPPIES, PEDWIN,
VERDE THAT WERE TO 24.99

8.99 to 18.99

Foot Tree

30 JOBS LANE, SOUTHAMPTON **MEN'S SHOP**

(Opp. Parrish Museum) AT 3 - 2450



Comments Come True

Four years ago, when it was announced that New York State intended to take over the Long Island Railroad, Suffolk Life editorialized strongly against this move. Our editorial was severely criticized in some quarters, and many so-called experts said, "That little rag doesn't know what it's talking about." For the sake of the people of New York State we wish they had been right. Unfortunately, every fear that we expressed has come true.

Our basic position was that the ills of the Long Island Railroad could not be solved by socializing it. Time and again it has been proven that government cannot operate as effectively as private enterprise; it does not have the incentive to perform with excellence and at a profit. We felt that a state takeover of the railroad would multiply its problems intolerably. Our critics claimed that the state could improve, modernize and run the railroad more efficiently. They were supremely confident that rate increases would not have to be put into effect.

The ills of the railroad were caused in the first place, by meddling politicians who put pressure on the owners of the line to keep fares down. As a result of this interference with free enterprise, service was cut to barely acceptable minimums and the road still operated at a loss of \$4,000,000 during its last year of private operation. Now, after millions of our hard earned dollars have been poured into this road, directly and indirectly, the Long Island Railroad has completed this fiscal year losing \$16,000,000. This is four times the losses incurred by private ownership, plus service has been allowed to slip to a point where a fatal accident of mammoth proportions is almost inevitable.

The railroad now says that it must have a fare increase if it is to pay its creditors. Of course, the fare increase will be automatic because the MTA gets what it wants. It is a government authority not subject to the same controls as a business. Now the riders of the railroad will have to pay even more for bum service. We do not find fault in the fare hike. Everything else has gone up; so has the basic cost of operating the railroad. We do find fault with the way in which the railroad is run. Inexcusable management practices have resulted in the waste of millions of dollars as was pointed out in a recent report by Controller Leavitt. We find fault in the intolerable

riding conditions and the death traps that the commuters are made to ride in. Mostly we find fault with the joker in Albany who has the audacity to call this the best railroad in the country.

We repeat what we said four years ago. The solution to the railroad's problems is to turn it back to private enterprise. Unsaddle the people of New York from the burden of subsidizing its operations. Allow private business a free hand in its operation free from political meddling. Let rates be set that are consistent with a profitable operation and the stage can be set for the development of one of the best roads in the country.

It is not too late to return the Long Island Railroad to private ownership. Why not give the system that built this country a chance instead of continuing with the state-run operation which has already been proven completely ineffective? And why not?

Inflation Generator

Maybe we've been around too long, but the subject of another editorial we wrote a few years ago is back again to plague us. When the last increase in the minimum wage was proposed, we said that to do so would cause an increase in all salaries by equal proportions and thus the cost of goods and services would shoot up also.

The minimum wage was raised and we have experienced one of the worst inflationary periods in our history.

We believe that these periodic increases in the minimum wage are a direct cause of inflation. People who were struggling along on \$1.35 an hour are now making \$1.60 an hour. They are not buying one bit more for their money - in fact less. With its sliding scale of taxation, only government benefits from these periodic inflationary increases in the minimum wage. They don't like to admit it, but it's a fact. As peoples wages go up they slip into the higher tax brackets and pay a greater percentage of their pay in

cont. on page 4

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EDITORIALS from page 3

taxes. The higher pay does not buy more goods and services; it simply puts more people into higher tax brackets so that government can collect more money in taxes from individuals and businesses.

An increased minimum wage will not accomplish one constructive thing. We all will make more money, but this money will buy less. The people who are on fixed incomes will suffer the most. Not only will they receive no increase in income, but also their net buying power will be reduced.

Governor Rockefeller has proposed a raise in the minimum wage to \$1.85. The politicians will prob-



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CALORIC®

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YOU WON'T BUY ELSE WHERE
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Wholesale Cost!

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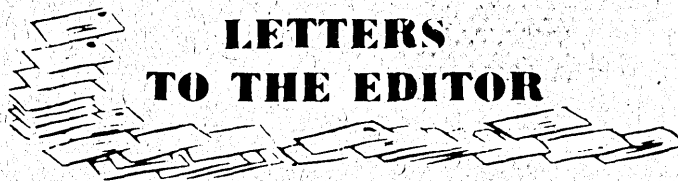
Pyrofax Gas

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West Main Street, Riverhead

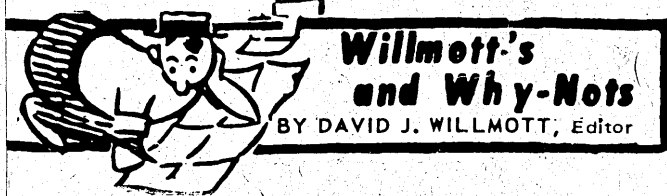
ably go along with him because this is an election year. To the person who does not think about the consequences, this will probably look like a good deal. In the long run, however, none will benefit except the government that will gain more tax dollars from it. We urge all our readers to contact their legislators and the governor and make your views known to them. We don't buy this phoney gift; we want no part of it. And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Dave:

It was gratifying to see, at last, some editorial comment in the Written media about the tragedy which has befallen the Riverhead community commonly known as the Levon Properties Industrial Park. For ever so long I had hoped that Riverhead's residents would recognize how significantly they had been and will be affected by the granting of the mining permit to Levon Properties in the guise of property improvement. Perhaps now, with the intercession of Congressman Pike and an enlightened Suffolk Life, further depredations can be avoided. We earnestly hope that Southold Town will not fall prey to similar grandiose blueprints such as were foisted on a naive Riverhead Town Board (the Jamesport mine), and an unsuspecting East Hampton Town Board (the Fort Pond Mine). I would add the need to carefully investigate one further



Sand Pit Hearing

Friday night, February 13th a public hearing will be held on what some have called the "North Fork's biggest sand pit" and by others a deepsea port - industrial complex known officially as Levon Properties. The Army Corps of Engineers are conducting this hearing after having been petitioned by over 500 North Fork residents and after having had pressure brought to bear by powers in Washington. The purpose of the hearing is to see whether the permit for continuing construction of the jetties and interference with the postal waterways is justified or if it should be turned down.

Opponents of this project maintain that all that is going on or ever will go on is a mammoth sand and gravel operation. They state that the removal and washing of this sand is endangering the ground water supply by pumping too much water out of the ground and permitting salt water to intrude into the fresh water table. They claim that the jetties are causing beach erosion to the east resulting in a breakdown of the cliffs. Others feel that one of the most beautiful spots on Long Island is being desecrated and many charge that Riverhead is giving away part of the physical town and receiving nothing in return. It has been claimed that nowhere near enough taxes are coming out of this property. All in all, the uproar over the Levon property situation is large and loud. The owners of this property, George Semerjian and Curtiss-Wright, maintain that they are sincere in their proposal for building a deepsea port and that they are not just mining sand and gravel. They claim that the removal of the sand is unprofitable but that they are still going to develop this area as an industrial park and already have companies ready to build as soon as the land is ready. They have maintained their position over the last six years.

We think that every resident of Riverhead and the North Fork area has a valid interest and stake in the outcome of this hearing and that they should turn out in force to find out just what the story is and how it affects them. We encourage all residents to speak out and make their feelings and opinions known on this matter.

Most of us would like to see selected, clean industry come to this area, but none of us want this industry at the cost of having our water ruined, or our land ravaged. There is a general feeling that we have been

"snowed" or better yet "sanded" in this matter and we want some hard answers as to when we are going to see this industrial boom that was promised in the beginning. The hearing will be held on February 13th at the Roanoke Avenue school in Riverhead. We urge everyone to attend. And why not?

No Subsidy

Rockefeller, in a frantic ploy to win back the votes of the commuters of the Long Island Railroad, has proposed to loan the MTA, the owners of the railroad a sum in excess of twenty million dollars under the loosest terms. This is just a gift, financed by every taxpayer in New York State for the sole benefit of those who commute on the line. These moneys will be used to hold down a fare increase and will not go towards improving the equipment or service. The funds will only work to get Rockefeller out of a political hole and are a blatant attempt to clear away one of his political obstacles, and return him to office where he can continue to ruin this state for another four years.

This taxpayer and editor, for one does not like to see his money used to buy votes for anyone. As one who must supply his own mode of transportation without subsidy, we find it unthinkable that we be asked to subsidize someone else. We find it repulsive to be asked to assume the responsibility for subsidizing the Long Island Railroad which does not belong in the hands of the government in the first place.

If Rockefeller and Company can find the justification in subsidizing the railroad out of our taxes whether it be in the form of outright grant or loan that is not expected to be paid back, then we should not hesitate to ask the governor and the legislature for compensatory subsidies for ourselves. If we use our cars in business and/or to get to and from our places of business, we should be allowed to forego all gasoline taxes. Also, we must be relieved of paying licence plate fees as well as use and sales taxes.

We should not only ask for this, but we should de-

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EDITORIAL from Page 3

mand it! What is good for those who use mass transportation to get to and from work must also be good for those of us who are independent enough to provide our own means of transportation. If we have to pay our way, let them also. If they get subsidized transportation, then let us. There must be an end to discriminatory use of our tax money. And why not?



**LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Words can not express the complete surprise and happiness we experienced upon hearing that we were the winners of the grand prize of a 1970 automobile, in the Eastern Long Island Shopping Spree contest sponsored by Suffolk Life and the merchants of Eastern Long Island.

We would like to thank Mr. Messina, President of the Riverhead Merchants Division, for pulling our name from over a half million entries. We would like to thank Suffolk Life and each of the participating merchants who made our winning the 1970 automobile possible. You all played "Santa Claus" to us bringing the thing we needed most! It was a wonderful experience for the whole family and one we will never forget!

**continuing
our
mid-winter
clearance
of fine
women's shoes**

WERE \$10 to \$23

**NOW
6⁹⁹ to 16⁹⁹**



30 JOBS LANE, SOUTHAMPTON
HUNTINGTON HA7-0063
(Opp. Parrish Museum), AT3-2450

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CLOSEOUT**

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- BINDERS
- POLES
- CAR TOP CARRIERS
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**ENTIRE DEPT. 20% OFF
WHILE STOCK LASTS—**

**Just Arrived! New Shipment
of SNURFERS**

EDWARDS DISCOUNT CENTER
East Main St. and Route 58 RIVERHEAD 727-4418

We have always done most of our shopping in Eastern Long Island. We find the selection is good, the quality is excellent, and the price is "right". There is no need to look any further. Kid Stuff of Riverhead, where we deposited our lucky coupon, is an excellent example of the kind of store you can find in Eastern Long Island. It is well stocked with the very latest toys, etc. The sales people are very courteous and helpful.

The car dealers involved in the promotion were very pleasant and very helpful when we shopped around for the car of our choice. We want to thank them for their time. Our new car is a constant reminder to us and our neighbors that it pays to shop in Eastern Long Island.

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you that we subscribe to Suffolk Life and read it from cover to cover. We look forward to receiving it each Wednesday. It is an excellent little paper and certainly deserving of all the awards it has been given! Keep up the good work!

It was a great pleasure meeting you, Mr. Willmott! Please pass our heartfelt thanks on to all who made our grand prize possible! We want to wish all a Happy, Healthy and Lucky New Year!

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. Julius Biamonte
and family

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Re: Your December 3 editorial "Dole to go up". New York law prohibits begging yet our government not only encourages it but supports it by placing beggars on its payroll under the title of "Relief Recipients". The proper title would be "human parasites" sucking the blood of the hard working individual for indirectly it is he who pays.