

David J. Willmott, Editor

Better Pay Attention

Take a look at your paycheck this week. There's less for you than there was last week. Your employer did not

Your Subscription Bill Explained

Enclosed in this week's edition of Suffolk Life you will find your annual subscription bill. We ask everyone who receives Suffolk Life to voluntarily send in \$4.99 once a year for their own subscription.

In 1961, Suffolk Life started as a free newspaper. In those days it cost a penny a copy to mail, newsprint cost less than \$100 a ton and Suffolk Life had one employee. The whole operation ran out of a garage and there was virtually no overhead.

Times have changed and so has Suffolk Life. Today we publish a full-fledged newspaper. Our full-time staff is the largest on the island for a weekly newspaper. In all, from the front office through the carriers, there are more than 900 people involved in getting out each week's edition of Suffolk Life. It now costs us more than 20 cents for each and every copy of Suffolk Life we distribute each week.

We ask you to send in, once a year, \$4.99. On a weekly basis, this comes out to less than 10 cents per week, delivered right to your home.

You may wonder why we do not individually bill readers. The reason is simple. It costs too much money. We could hire a computer and go through all kinds of waste in subscription operation. This cost would come out more than the value of the subscription itself.

We prefer taking the money you pay for your subscription and put it back into publishing a better newspaper. The money you voluntarily give goes to pay the cost of publishing news in Suffolk Life. The more subscriptions that are sold, the better the newspaper. It's as simple as that.

We may be foolish to opt for this system of circulation, but we have faith in the newspaper we publish and the people we publish it for. Sure, some people will not pay for their subscription feeling they have gotten something for nothing. Others will not like the newspaper for a variety of reasons and they should not pay for it.

We do know though that most people like Suffolk Life and appreciate having an independent newspaper on their side and will support it. We hope this editorial helps to clarify our subscription policy and we thank you in advance for your continued support. And why not?

make a mistake. The state just raised its ante and decided to let you keep that much less.

In addition, Uncle Sam will be taking more of your money to keep the Social Security system afloat. Obviously, Uncle Sam does not feel you need all that money you are taking home, so he'll just help himself to some more. He has raised the maximum amount of income he will tax from \$13,200 to \$14,100.

This may all seem really bad, talking about for the future is even worse. They want to raise the maximum amount of income taxed to \$24,000 in 1976. They are also toying with the idea of raising the retirement age from 65 to 68 before you can receive full benefits.

If the advisory council's plans go through, you will have to fork out as much as \$2,808 in combined employer-employee payment to Social Security in 1976. That is one hell of a lot of money to pay for insurance that is not insurance.

We have been told, or led to believe, we are paying into the Social Security system as insurance for our old age. But

Keep In Touch With Your Government

We encourage you to save this list of your lawmakers. Listed below are your federal, state and county representatives and their addresses. From time to time you may have occasion to let them know how you feel and you should do so:

President Gerald Ford, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C.

Sen. Jacob Javits, 110 E. 45th St., N.Y. 10017.

Sen. James Buckley, 110 E. 45th St., N.Y. 10017.

Rep. Otis Pike, 1st C.D., 209 W. Main St., Riverhead, N.Y. 11901.

Rep. Thomas Downey, 2nd C.D., 50 Park Ave., Bay Shore, N.Y. 11706.

Gov. Hugh Carey, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224.

State Sen. Leon Giuffreda, 1st S.D., 1344 Middle Country Rd., Centereach, N.Y. 11720.

State Sen. Caesar Trunzo, 2nd S.D., Islip Town Hall, 655 Main St., Islip, N.Y. 11751.

Perry Duryea, 1st A.D., Tuthill Rd., Montauk, N.Y. 11954.

George Hochbrueckner, 2nd A.D., 1 Wycomb Pl., Coram, N.Y. 11727.

I.W. Bianchi, 3rd A.D., 20 Orchard Rd., East Patchogue, N.Y. 11772.

Paul Harenberg, 5th A.D., P.O. Box 80, Bayport, N.Y. 11705.

County Executive John V.N. Klein, County Center, Veterans Memorial Hwy., Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787.

nothing could be further from the truth. The ever-increasing dough we are throwing into the government pot is merely propping up the sagging Social Security system for today.

The money we put in now is used to pay people who are currently receiving Social Security benefits -- nothing is being put away for our old age.

In other words, there is no such thing as Social Security insurance. We just have to pay a payroll tax that supports a very inadequate day-by-day retirement system.

Unlike a private insurance policy, where you know from the outset how much it's going to cost, what the benefits are and what the rules and regulations will be, Social Security is at the whim of the politicians.

This all happens because we sit back and let it. Start paying attention to your paycheck. The difference between what you make and what you take home is what is being grabbed off you by the bureaucrats to play games with. This is your money even though you never see it. You earned it and you're entitled to the full value of it.

We doubt that anyone now, recipient or payee, ever gets full value out of Social Security. Isn't it about time you let your representatives know how you feel? And why not?

Leg. Norton Daniels, 1st L.D., W. Main St., Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963.

Leg. Beecher Halsey, 2nd L.D., County Center, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901.

Leg. Louis Fuoco, 3rd A.D., 108 E. Main St., Patchogue, N.Y. 11772.

Leg. Floyd Linton, 4th L.D., 764 Middle Country Rd., Selden, N.Y. 11784.

Leg. Mildred Steinberg, 5th L.D., 407 E. Main St., Rm. 6, Port Jefferson, N.Y. 11777.

Leg. Angela Christensen, 6th L.D., 108 E. Main St., Rm. 222, Branch, N.Y. 11786.

Leg. John Wehrenberg, 7th L.D., 1628 Railroad Ave., Box 1, Holbrook, N.Y. 11741.

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willmotts and why-nots

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'Airport 1975' Starring John Klein

County Executive John Klein's announcement last week to return the Westhampton airbase to the Air National Guard was both good news and bad news.

The good news is that we are no longer going to have to waste \$700,000 annually to keep it in operation. The bad news is the county has finally conceded they have fouled up a golden opportunity to make the base property a highly profitable asset to the county.

The airport, in existence since pre-World War II days, has rotated from county occupancy to federal control on several different occasions. The first transfer took place in 1969 when the Air Force ended their mission at the base and others across the country like Presque Isle, Maine.

This particular closing had a devastating affect on the local economy with the loss of 2,500 people employed there, and a drop in local retail sales from 10 to 25 per cent.

When the county announced plans to take over the entire facility, there was renewed hope. The politicians talked and talked ... and talked about what they would do with it. They hired professional planners to come up with short range, mid-range and long range plans.

The plans were grandiose. They covered everything from a simple municipal airport to a national jetport. Even before plans were off the drawing board, the legislature was planning to acquire hundreds of additional acres and appointed a high priced airport manager to oversee this fiasco. They also stationed a contingent of sheriff's deputies there at a cost of \$295,722 to protect the valuable facility.

The only problem is nothing ever happened.

Meanwhile, in parallel circumstances, the government officials in Presque Isle, Maine, turned the closing of their base into an advantage.

Like the South Fork, until the base closed, Presque Isle's main industries had been potatoes, tourism and the government installation. While the closing caused a crisis, their yankee ingenuity resulted in a comprehensive plan for the base, which they were implementing within weeks after completion.

Used as a hub to develop new industry, sections were rented out to manufacturers at nominal rates. Job retraining was set up to develop a ready work force for these new employers.

The airport itself was set up to handle corporate aircraft, and some light freight cargoes. In short, they took a

wasteful military installation and turned it into a profitable private industrial facility.

But then, Maine has a different breed of politician. They are people with the attitude that actions speak louder than words.

Back in Suffolk, inaction on development plans allowed the Air National Guard to decide they needed the base for its own use. Although the county jealously protested, it was to no avail, and the guard moved in with its obsolete mission.

Despite their mission, the airmen have been a productive force at the base keeping their portions in good repair. The county, on the other hand, has let its portion of the base waste away to ruin, giving only the barest minimum of maintenance.

Practical suggestions for both short range and long term utilization have been ignored. The county has made no

How Bad Is Unemployment?

If you take the stories appearing in the daily newspapers at face value, it looks like they are trying to make you believe we are in the midst of a frightening depression.

They show pictures of lines winding their way outside of unemployment offices and report horror stories of the hard life of living without a job. If you've taken it as gospel truth, you probably have pulled your money out of the bank and hidden it in gold under your mattress.

We'll be damned if we see it this way.

If, at the worse, both a husband and wife are unemployed, and collecting the maximum benefits, they take home \$190 per week. Since there are no taxes or Social Security taken out of unemployment those benefits are the equivalent of about \$275 per week. In addition, there are none of the usual worker expenses such as transportation, lunches, collections at the office, etc. At a \$190 net income, a family can survive fairly well.

Even in Detroit, where recently there have been massive auto worker layoffs, the combination of an unemployment-compensation and a special union-employer fund are providing those men with 95 per cent of their normal salary.

Funded by a surcharge on every automobile sold in good years, it is the auto manufacturers way of forestalling family disaster in times when they are forced to lay off men. Those funds can provide benefits to unemployed workers for up to two years.

There are so many built-in stops

real attempt to lease buildings at the base. The Suffolk County Air Force Base has been a very expensive and frustrating waste of taxpayers' money.

It is a shame that this golden opportunity is going down the drain. This facility could have been a corporate center; it could have been an educational center; it could have been an industrial center; or it could have even been a center for small commercial and industrial shops.

The opportunities were limitless but the politicians were not up to the challenge. From John V.N. Klein to local legislator Beecher Halsey, they fouled the chance to create a valuable county asset by their incompetence.

Sadly, we agree the county should get out of the airport business because of its inability to make it work.

Whose fault is it that we blew such an opportunity? It's ours, the voters.

This November maybe we can elect good businessmen who know how to get mileage out of our county property and show a profit for our investment in taxes. If we don't, more and more of our county assets will go down the drain.

And why not?

against a depression like we had in the 30's, it is almost impossible to have a crash unless everyone panicked.

We just don't think this is going to happen.

Things will be tighter and people will watch their expenditures more carefully. But even this has a beneficial effect because we are already starting to see some of the prices come down.

We freely admit to having an optimistic personality as a newspaper, preferring to look for opportunities rather than sitting around griping.


Even if we were not of this nature, looking at the problems of today's economy against the pluses, we have to end up at least conservatively bullish -- which we are. And why not?

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Ford's Shell Game

Rejoice, taxpayers! You will receive a tax rebate of 10 to 12 per cent. That's right, up to \$1,000 in free money will be coming your way according to our esteemed President Ford in his Monday night address.

Oh, yes! For your good, you will be paying a little more for gas, oil and electricity, and food and clothing, and everything else that needs oil to be produced or moved. It seems the President has decided your government should place an excise tax of \$2 per barrel on both imported and domestic oil to meet our foreign balance, of payments. He claims you have been spending too much money abroad these days.

The rebate is calculated to cost the federal government \$15 billion. The increased oil tax is calculated to bring \$35 billion in direct taxes to the government. This gives the feds a handsome profit of \$20 billion. Or to put it into perspective, you will be paying out \$2.50 in new gas taxes for every dollar you receive in tax rebate. In other words, screwed again.

Even more devastating will be the cumulative effect of the cost of this tax on all your purchases. Not only will you pay more for your gas and home heating oil, but electricity and everything that needs these products, virtually everything you buy.

This tax is even more distasteful to those of us who live outside cities where

there isn't mass transportation and rent fixed housing. We are solely dependent on the auto for work and basic transportation. An auto is not a luxury but a very basic necessity. We can't survive without it.

The cost for our oil and electricity is not a stable cost as it is in the city's rent fixed apartments. We pay the going rate and as a tax is imposed, we pay through the nose while our urban brothers are not affected for the length of their leases or as long as their rents are controlled.

Don't get us wrong, we are all in favor of a tax cut. A pure and simple tax cut is what is needed now, one that does not have any hitches attached. We have had enough shell games under President Johnson and Nixon.

What this country needs now is something plain and simple to believe in. An across-the-board ten per cent reduction in taxes, coupled with a ten per cent reduction in federal spending is the cure. A tax cut without a cut in federal spending will only cause more inflation. A cut in the income tax with an oil tax increase of two and a half times in petroleum is both inflationary and royal screwing of the public. We have had enough of both.

The President has had his chance to present his proposals to turn the economy around and it's proved to be nothing more than a con act. Now, let's see if Congress can do any better. And why not?

Time For Suburban Block To Form

Dear Perry:

As we discussed when you were in for your interview prior to your re-election, there would be a real need for you to organize a suburban block in the assembly composed of both Democrats and Republican legislators. It appears there is already the need for this to happen -- with the governor proposing a ten cent tax on gas its imperative.

Gas is the backbone of a suburban way of life. We must use our cars not only for work, but to get anywhere else. Cars are more important to us than buses, subways and trains are to city residents.

Suburbia is a sprawl. Schools, churches, stores and municipal buildings are miles away from our homes. In most cases, it's even too far to walk for a loaf of bread or a six-pack of beer. In our cities these little conveniences are just around the corner.

Needless to say, gas is the commodity that runs our cars. Without it we don't move. Luxuries we can cut down on. Necessities, we can't. Gas is a necessity

to our suburban way of life. It is not to our city neighbor.

Knowing this it's going to be up to you and your fellow suburban and rural legislators to stop Carey's call for a gas price increase.

At the same time, you should take a hard, cold look at any further subsidizing of mass transportation, particularly the subway systems that only benefit city dwellers.

For those of us who must provide our own transportation, we are finding the costs of driving already making our existence more difficult. We just don't have the money left over to give to our city brothers. We have to pay our own way, shouldn't they?

The three Democrats we interviewed before elections, Bianchi, Hochbrueckner and Harenberg, all said they would be willing to put aside their party loyalties when it came to voting in the interests of their suburban constituents.

We think you will find most suburban-rural legislators, regardless of party,

will follow suit, particularly if they are led by someone as dynamic as you.

Perry, now is the time to really show your leadership qualities. Put together the coalition and you will be well on your way to the governor's mansion in '78. And why not?

Hope Looks Forward

Out in East Hampton Town, there is a dynamic little lady who is supervisor, named Judy Hope. This week she showed she has one quality most of her male counterparts in politics lack. Foresight.

Judy has taken a look at the economic situation for '75 and told her board that they had better trim back drastically on their budget for this year.

Admitting the budget was prepared anticipating a normal economy, Hope outlined five major areas where town revenues will be reduced this year because of the financial picture. Foreseeing shortages, Hope has called for a cut-back in services and projects to meet the expected drop in revenues. She warns of steep property tax hikes in the future if the board refuses to act.


Hope is right and all towns and other governments would do well to follow her lead. Failure to do so will mean drastically higher real estate taxes in '76.

We commend Hope for her foresight and presume her board will see her reasoning and act on the public's behalf to bring the town under to austerity. We hope other towns and school boards will follow East Hampton in developing austerity budgets for '76 so that taxpayers won't be losing their homes next year. These are not easy times and it calls for sacrifices from all of us. Let's make them, so we can enjoy better times. And why not?

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Ethics And Responsibility

As shameful as Watergate was to the public, seeing its top government leaders dragged down in disgrace and ridicule, there was at least the hope other officials would learn a lesson.

It was felt that officeholders might return to honesty in their dealings with the public, and ethical operation of government, so you could once again have confidence in those entrusted with the sacred responsibility of representing us.

Sadly, reading Saturday's Newsday, we found the county's highest officials have learned nothing.

Arthur Bergmann, John Klein's top aide and a former Newsday reporter admitted taking between \$18,000 and \$20,000 from the Brookhaven GOP for public relations work while he was supposed to be watchdogging those politicians for his newspaper.

Despite a strict Newsday policy prohibiting such reporter moonlighting, Bergmann said he saw nothing wrong with his connection to the Zeidler machine.

It's an answer not worthy of the rawest cub reporter, much less a 27 year veteran and formerly respected columnist like Bergmann.

He knew it was pure bunk then and now because he hid behind his wife's skirts, putting the party's checks in her name. He is a Judas Iscariot to every honest reporter.

Most reporters go into journalism because they believe in truth and honesty. Reporting is not the road to riches. In fact most reporters would

starve before they would place themselves in the position of compromise.

This editor, and any others worth their salt, would fire a man on the spot if they had any inkling they were involved in anything as unethical or underhanded as this. The reason is simple. The public has a right to expect, and we have a responsibility to report all the news, honestly and fully, without bias.

But as bad as the act itself is, the most appalling part is how Bergmann and his boss, County Executive Klein, hummed the whole issue. Klein even defended his underling admitting he was aware of his past party work and accusing other reporters of similar practices.

Klein's attitude about this matter is frightening because it tells us about his own faulty ethics.

We wonder what kind of man would knowingly hire as his top aide someone who had flagrantly betrayed his former employer, the principles of his trade, fellow workers and, most importantly, the public both papers and governments serve.

As Klein's top aide, Bergmann is responsible for much that happens in the county. Why should he be trusted?

Can we trust the man who hired him knowing this history and doesn't see anything wrong in Bergmann's past violation of trust?

John Klein should take a hard cold look at himself. He can't like what he has become. God help this country if all our politicians have learned no more from Watergate than Klein. And why not?

Is There Another Choice?

The Republicans, through President Ford, are saying these days "We must impose an energy tax to stop the importing of oil." All the money we are spending in the Middle East, they claim, has thrown off our balance of payments and we are rapidly going broke.

Democrats in Congress say "we should have gas rationing to stop the people from using so much Arab oil so we can cut down on imports and re-establish our balance of payments."

We don't like either idea.

We'll be darned if we can figure out why we are importing oil in the first place. By all reports, we Americans last year, cut back our use of petroleum somewhere between seven and 15 per cent. Before the whole mess began, we were only importing six per cent of our oil from the Middle East.

It would appear our cutbacks should have totally eliminated our need for Mid-East oil.

As we asked when the alleged oil crisis first came on the scene last winter -- is there an energy crisis or was it manufactured? We've never had a straight answer to that question. Just the consequences.

Before the American public is forced to accept either rationing or import tax, the government should answer this first question - is there really a shortage of oil?

Are we still being fed information by the American Petroleum Institute, the organization funded by the oil companies which have profited excessively from all the confusion?

We ask our government to come up with honest, independent figures on the oil situation. Giving us the oil company statistics is like having the Mafia chart the crime rate.

About a year ago, when the gas prices were about half what they are today, the oil companies told the public, "there is

an oil shortage. As the gas lines went away.

Now again, we have our government telling us we have a shortage and the solution is to raise prices through taxes or inconvenience.

Is our government trying to imitate the oil industry? It sounds like it. Doesn't it? And why not?

Warming On Subsidized Jobs

The federal government has released funds through the county to be used to create new jobs to help alleviate the unemployment situation.

On the surface, this would appear to be a positive step, but as Southampton Town Councilman Ted Alpert pointed out to us, there is a hitch. This money is to be used to create new jobs, but only for a limited duration, in most cases only six months. After this period, funds will cease and if the employee is to be kept their salary will have to be picked up by the local government that hired him.

Most local governments are hard-pressed to find the funds just to keep the people they now have working. Where will they find the money to keep the people hired in these make-work jobs after the federal funding ceases? In truth, these jobs only encourage expansion of bureaucracy and in the long run cause more problems than they will solve.

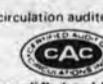
As the tax dollars are not there to fund these positions after the initial period, what they are doing is only postponing the real unemployment sting by a very expensive method. It is questionable whether the taxpayer will get any real value out of a make-work project. Even if there is definite benefit, it is a service we could do without in the tight money situation.

We hope our towns and school boards and other agencies that are approached to take advantage of this program will look it over with hawk eyes. Before they hire anyone it should be clearly spelled out the job will continue no longer than the federal funds. And why not?

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