

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Back Where We Started

1976 will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of our country. Ironically, we have come almost full circle.

This country was founded because the citizens were considered the enemy of the government of England. The people were oppressed, over taxed, and pawns of those in power.

The founding fathers rejected this way of life and declared their independence. A revolution fought by the people against the English government and America won its independence. The constitution was framed to establish America as a republic. Its system of government -- a democracy, its enterprise system -- capitalism.

For 175 years this system worked well. Over the last 25 years, this system has been under increasing and constant attack and is steadily losing ground to an unseen enemy. The enemy this time is the bureaucracy of our own U.S. government. It is the untouchable force that is not responsive to people, politicians or elected officials.

As government has grown larger, bureaucracy has mushroomed to a point where it has been able to insulate itself from those whom it is supposed to serve. The average citizen cannot

touch it and our elected officials are bewildered by it.

It is the force that creates the waste in government, the exorbitant taxes, and produces less in return for the life blood it sucks from the economic system. It considers the citizen by whom it has been employed to serve, its enemy -- an enemy without rights or privileges. Citizens only exist to create wealth so it can be taxed and used to build and further insulate a larger bureaucratic system.

Every level of elected government office should, in this year of the bicentennial, examine the bureaucracy that has been allowed to surround it. The elected officials who are responsible for that bureaucracy must find ways to cut this waste and reduce the power that has been assumed by it. If this is not done, we can foresee another revolution in the American future. Americans are lazy about their government, but once they have been pushed too far they will react as our forefathers did.

The democratic system of government is without a doubt the best. It gives the people the ultimate power through the elections. Today this has been nullified through civil service protection which protects the bureaucrat from

How Do You Like Feeding Your Enemy

The United States has a thing called a "Detente" with Russia. It's supposed to be a mechanism for keeping communications open between the Soviet Union and America, a sort of prelude to peace.

We are extremely skeptical of this, and like many Americans, we feel the Russians, as usual, are getting the best end of the deal.

Our state department which is responsible for this magnificent agreement is opposing a 200 mile limit off the American coast as part of the so-called "detente". Because of this we allow Russia and other foreign fishing fleets to come legally as close as 12 miles off our shores to harvest fish.

If all they did was harvest we would not mind, but with their highly mechanized, electronically sophisticated fishing fleets, they are totally

wiping out all sea life that has previously been a staple in American diets.

There have been three noticeable results from this onslaught. Our domestic fishing industry is almost in ruin. The boats that used to come back with reasonable catches are coming back with their holds bare. The price of seafood at the supermarket and the fish store has skyrocketed to a point where fish has been transformed from a staple to a luxury.

We have seen first-hand the effect of this over-fishing. For twenty years, we have fished for shark and other sport fish off Long Island. Shark primarily feed upon the weak, the sick and the deformed denizens of the sea. They cruise the outer rim of schools of fish picking off the weaker of the species.

As little as five years ago, it was common to be able to hook up, catch and release as many as



Copley News Service

"Sorry, Mr., but she came up dry this time. There just ain't no more money down there."

change desired by the public.

We doubt our forefathers who established this country envisioned or would have condoned a separate government within the government which is what bureaucracy is in America.

We as citizens can change our leaders with regularity but unless these leaders change the system they are charged with administering, the system does not change. This is something that every elected official should consider. And why not?

twenty sharks in a day. This past summer many boats fishing hard never came in contact with any sharks at all. This to us, is a valid and vivid indication that the great schools of fish that once filled the waters off Long Island are gone.

A bill has passed in the House to increase our territorial boundaries to 200 miles. It will be coming up for vote shortly in the Senate. Both our Senators from New York, Javits and Buckley should hear from you on this bill. President Ford has indicated he would veto this bill if it passes the Senate, because of the advice of the state department. He should be made aware of Americans' feelings.

Unless the slaughter of the remaining fish stock off our coast is halted, seafood will no longer be available even as a luxury. You can do something by informing your Senators and President. It is up to you. And why not?

The New County Government

The County Legislature for the first time in its history will be controlled by Democrats. They are pledged to bring you a more responsive form of government and attempting to make this government people-oriented.

The presiding officer they have chosen is Floyd Linton, a one-term veteran of the Legislature. He is young and aggressive. He should make a good leader if he can avoid becoming John Klein's boy, as many seasoned politicians fear.

The Democratic legislators have already indicated they will not be dominated by Klein. They have removed his seat on the board, a physical attempt to separate the Executive from the Legislative branch of government.

The biggest challenge to this new Legislature will be not to create new programs but to get the

maximum mileage from tax dollars already slated for pre-existing programs. The residents of Suffolk County will not be able to absorb the new taxes which new programs would demand.

This was the biggest issue of the past election. Suffolk County residents want less government and more of their own money to spend. They do not want more government and more taxes. If the Democrats are successful in this one single endeavor, they will continue to be re-elected. If they are not, the voters will have absolutely no qualms about throwing them out of power two years from now.

We wish the new Legislature success and good wishes and pray they will have the vision to see what the people want and accomplish this. And why not?

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Paul Gianelli,

Good Choice

Suffolk County District Attorney Henry O'Brien this past week appointed Assistant District Attorney Paul Gianelli, formerly head of the Fraud Bureau as his chief assistant.

Gianelli is an excellent choice. He is smart, tough and loyal. He is a non-political person even though a registered Democrat. Gianelli will be somebody O'Brien can feel comfortable confiding in -- a man people know will act in their interest.

Old-time Republicans are somewhat apprehensive that O'Brien is moving to make his office more political. O'Brien is one of the most un-political people we have ever come in contact with, and Gianelli is not far behind him.

What is more important to O'Brien than politics is having people he can trust implicitly. We believe this was an important factor in his decision to select Gianelli as his chief assistant.

The only politicians on either side of the fence who have anything to fear from O'Brien's office are those who have had their hands in the till. They have a lot to be concerned about. And why not?



"YOU THINK IT'S EASY BEING MIDDLE CLASS?"

Share The Wealth: Hochbrueckner

Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner has introduced legislation to ensure that windfall profits made in real estate will be shared. Hochbrueckner has established that up to \$50,000,000 a year could be returned to municipalities through this legislation.

Hochbrueckner reasons that speculators have made enormous profits through change of zoning variances and other government-caused changes in real estate values. These profits presently go directly to the speculators. The

taxpayers are left to finance additional costs created by the changes.

The assemblyman's legislation provides the mechanisms for taxing windfall profits by up to 25 per cent. He feels this profit would not be made under normal circumstances but only comes about because of the actions of the government. The people, therefore, should share in a portion of the profits that are derived because of the government's actions.

This is an imaginative piece of legislation, one

that deserves careful study and support. It is of particular importance to the east end of Long Island as we are sitting on vast amounts of undeveloped land. It is estimated that over 60 per cent of the farmland in the East End is owned by real estate speculators, not farmers.

This land was bought at a fraction of today's real market value. When sold it will profit speculators by several hundred per cent. Some parcels have increased even more because of rezoning from agricultural use to industrial classification. Other parcels have been granted rezoning and variances for the creation of apartments and other high density uses.

Once this land is developed it will produce a severe tax burden on the community. A windfall profit tax would help a community facing rapid development cope with the many new costs mandated by increased population.

You can be sure the legislature will be bombarded and pressured by speculators to kill this legislation. Our Assemblymen and Senators and the Governor must be made to realize we are aware of this legislation, we support it and we will be watching how they vote. And why not?

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Why Reagan Wants Local Welfare

The liberal eastern press has been slashing out violently at Ronald Reagan for his stand against the nationalization of welfare. These flaming liberals want to impose on the entire nation the welfare burden we are suffering under in the eastern industrial states.

Welfare costs have brought cities like New York and some states to a point of bankruptcy. It has placed an unconscionable burden on productive and working taxpayers, yet the liberals are now crying for the nation to take over full cost of these welfare programs.

Reagan is being castrated for opposing such a take over, but what he wants makes damn good sense. He favors having the federal government get out of the welfare business completely. Under the present system, the federal government pays approximately one-half the welfare cost but sets the standards, rules and regulations. This creates a bureaucracy which allows people who do not deserve welfare to obtain and afford the comforts and luxuries

workers cannot afford.

Reagan is a realist. He knows there is no Santa Claus. Somebody is going to have to pay the bills and that somebody will be the taxpayers of America.


His plan to return all rights and responsibility to the state for welfare is well founded. He feels the state and local governments could better administer and provide for those who need help without federal interference. Reagan proposes a reduction in federal taxes that can be picked up by the state and local municipalities to finance their own welfare cost if its people were so inclined. Our firebrand liberals don't like this idea as it would return rights and responsibility to the individual.

We believe Ronald Reagan is right on the welfare issue and encourage him to continue speaking out on the bread and butter issues that most taxpayers are concerned with. And why not?

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Klein's Annual Report

County Executive John Klein, last week presented his annual report. The report contains several recommendations that should be given serious consideration.

Abandon Bi-Monthly Sessions:

Klein's most important suggestion is that the County Legislature change from meeting bi-monthly to meeting four times annually for an intense ten day session. Klein reasons, and we concur, this will give the legislators an opportunity to better do the job they were elected for. It would help keep them from being bogged down in a mire of petty nuisances. A legislator is supposed to develop programs and enact laws to make the government work.

The legislature in the past, and at present, has allowed itself to become too involved in the administration of the County. As a result, it has found itself conferring on a bi-monthly basis on trivia such as granting permission to sell a used typewriter from one branch of government to another.

If the legislature meets two or four times a year, as Klein suggests, the individual legislators would have the time to better prepare themselves for an intensive session by doing research and going out into the district to meet with their constituents.

The Suffolk County Legislature was set up with the intent it would govern through the development of laws, not administrating through frequent meetings. Because it was common in the past for the County Board of Supervisors to meet bi-monthly, this tradition was carried on. It has resulted in the legislators getting bogged down with trivia and not being able to perform the job that was intended for them.

This year's legislature is comprised of higher quality talent than has been available in the past. It would seem a shame to have this talent wasted and not be used to its fullest potential.

We encourage the legislature to explore the possibility of scheduling county legislative meetings to semi-annual or quarterly sessions and have intense meetings that are carefully prepared and planned. By using this concept productively the County Legislature would be of better service to all the people.

Farmlands Still Without Cost:

Klein is looking forward to his farmland bill being passed by the new legislature. In his an-

nual report, however, Klein still fails to point out specifically what financial impact this plan will have on the individual taxpayer and the community. This information must be presented in an easy to understand formula before the plan can be either approved or discarded.

Borrow From Self:

Klein brings out in his annual report a weakness in the County's financial situation caused by state laws. The county, at certain periods of the year, takes in far more money than it needs to spend during that specific period. The funds not needed at the moment are used to buy certificates of deposit. (Certificates of deposit are paying between 5 and 6 per cent interest). At the same time, some branches of the government are borrowing at commercial rates of 8 1/2 to 12 per cent.

Klein asks our state legislature to change the state law in order to allow departments within a municipal government to loan and borrow money from each other. He points out that while one department has an excess of money for that time it is only earning 5 or 6 per cent, another department must borrow because of current needs from open market, causing the county to lose between 5 and 6 per cent because of this.

Our state legislature should enact the necessary laws to allow the government to borrow from itself when funds are available.

Ask Rank and File:

Klein ends his report by stating he wants a cutback on the already-approved 1976 budget. He says he has asked all department heads to come up with a plan for reducing the budget. He is looking for between a 1 per cent and a 5 per cent reduction.

We believe Klein missed an opportunity of getting real feed-back by not including a request for input from the rank and file of the county's employees.

We have had numerous conversations with county employees in non-supervisory or managerial positions who have thought of ways to trim some of the fat off county government. They live with it on a day in and day out basis and often see how economizing can be done better than their supervisors. But some of these people have told us that when they have suggested areas of waste, they were told to mind their own business and not to rock the boat. This

practice is dangerous during good times but it is perilous to a poor economic climate.

Klein's 1976 Annual Report is a good one and there is much food for thought in it. We hope all County Legislators will carefully examine this document and give careful consideration to the proposals. And why not?

Carey's Wage Freeze

Governor Carey suggested, a few months back, a mandatory state-wide wage freeze for all state and government workers. We have heard very little about this idea since then.

With the precarious position of the state government and Carey's pre-budget announcement of cutting back on the present budget, we feel his wage freeze proposition should be mandatory.

In private industry, the brick layers' union has recently announced the members had voted to cut back their high wages substantially in order to help get the building trades moving again.

A large semi-private institution here in Suffolk just had all its employees give up their yearly increment raise and accept an 8 per cent wage cut-back. As one longtime employee put it, 'I would prefer coming home with 8 per cent less in my paycheck than no paycheck at all.' Many companies have been forced to lay people off in order to survive. In other companies employees have shown a willingness to forego traditional raises to keep their companies viable.

The sacrifices that are being made in private and semi-private industry must be carried over into government. We have noted that there seems to be an unwillingness by some groups to face reality.

If Carey institutes a state-wide wage freeze and does away with the Taylor Law provision that obliges the municipalities and school boards to bargain collectively and go to binding arbitration if settlement cannot be reached, the town and school boards would be in a stronger position to refuse unreasonable demands.

New York City is by no means out of the woods financially, and knowledgeable high state officials fear the state itself is facing collapse. It is imperative for its own survival that New York cut-back severely state aid to education and municipalities.

It is imperative that Carey ease the burden by imposing a state mandated wage freeze and a temporary elimination of the collective bargaining provision under the Taylor Law. And why not?

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Suing Us For Their Own Money

Members of the New York State Legislature, at the end of their last session, granted themselves lulu's or bonuses. The lulu's amounted close to \$1,000,000 in extra pay. Legislative leaders received the most, with the new boys on the block getting the least.

The New York Public Interest Group took the State Legislature to court to have the lulu's ruled as illegal payment. The court ruled that the lulu's were indeed unconstitutional and not legal.

Lulu's were established back in the '20's to compensate the legislators for extraordinary expenses when a session was held over for a longer period of time than was intended. As time went on, lulu's became cash grants, a form of patronage to reward the faithful. This practice was abandoned, and replaced with a daily stipend for expenses that would coincide with the

number of days in the legislative session.


The court is now considering mandating that the legislators who receive these allotments be forced to return them. The legislative leaders have said they are going to take additional state funds, our taxes, to appeal this decision in the courts.

We always thought when we voted for a legislator, we gave him the authority to legislate for us, to enact laws on our behalf. We didn't think we gave them the authority to steal from us, get convicted, and then steal some more to appeal this conviction. But this is the way it seems to be coming down in '76, the year of the Bicentennial, the 200th anniversary of our forefathers' struggle to be free of oppressive government. And why not?

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Queen Mary's Wings Need Clipping

Dr. Mary McLaughlin, Commissioner of the Suffolk County Health Department has become known at the County Center as "Queen Mary." She has earned this title by being arrogant and dictatorial.

This arrogance was evident in the announcement made last week by the Suffolk County Health Department that, effective January 1, this department will start charging up to \$250 for routine inspections conducted by the Health Department. The Health Department steadfastly denies these fees are taxes. But that's just damn fool semantics.

These bureaucratically imposed taxes will cost Suffolk residents and business over \$1,500,000 a year. This will raise the cost of a home by over \$100 and push the cost of a cup of coffee in your luncheonette up by another nickel or more.

The Health Department under McLaughlin's hand has been assuming more and more power in recent times. McLaughlin is a refugee from New York City's Lindsay administration. She brought to Suffolk County the brand of professionalism that gave us the wonderful "Lindsay Years" which nearly bankrupted the city.

We inquired first to the Commissioner's office to find out where she gets the authority to impose an inspection fee.

Dr. James Harris, her deputy, said he believed it came from "general powers" of the Health Commissioner in a 1973 amendment to the county charter. He added, however, he was not sure of the law and suggested a check with the county attorney's office.

After a call to the county attorney's office and several hours' research by one of the assistants, we were told that the county charter was not the source of authority. Patrick Sweeney, an assistant county attorney, said the authority to charge fees comes from the Sanitary Code which was amended to allow such fees in the past year.

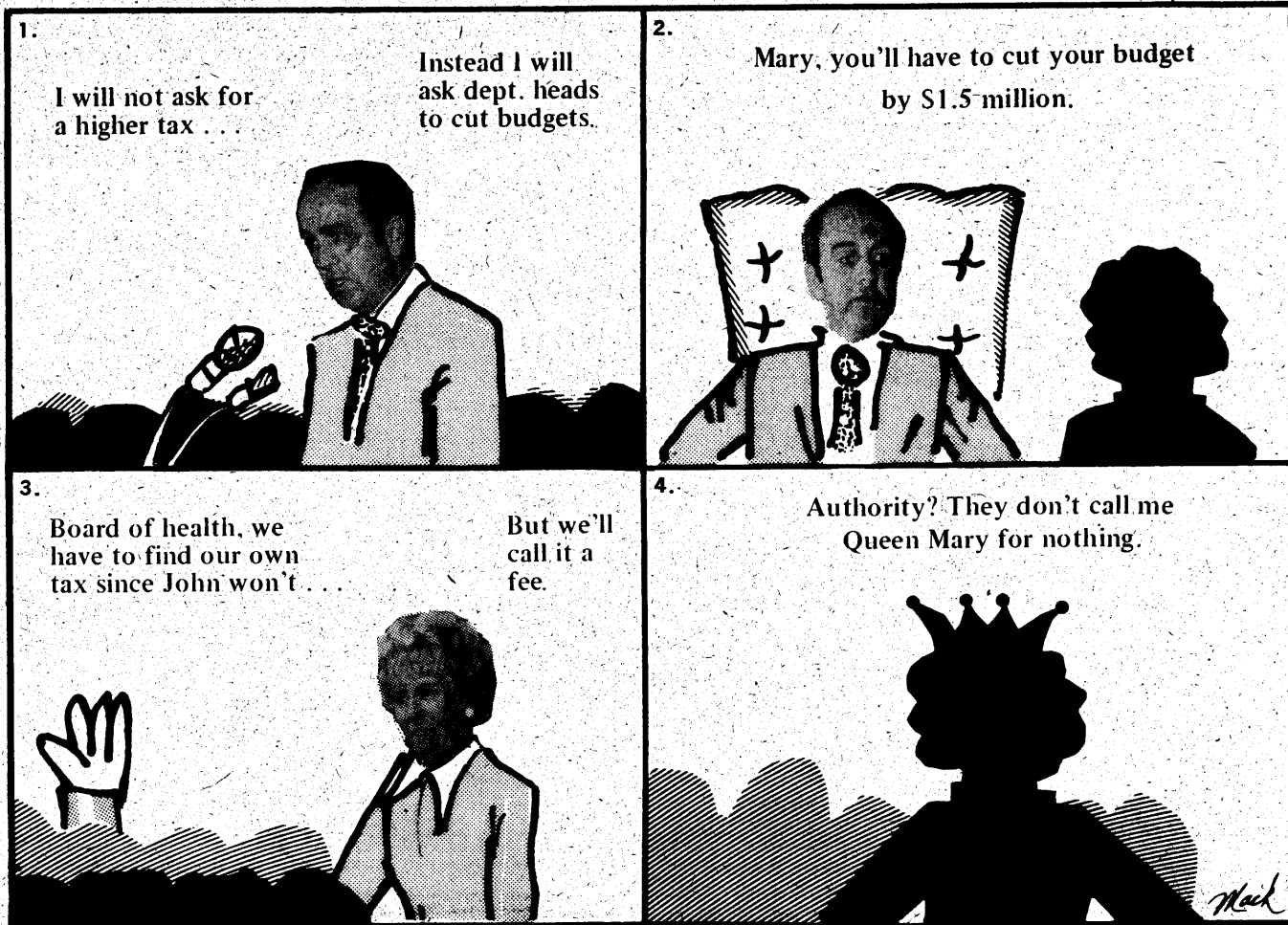
The Sanitary Code, he added, is drawn up by the county's board of health. Further checking also showed that the seven member board of health is a body appointed by the County Executive on recommendations of the health commissioner and the commissioner herself sits as head of the board.

The bottom line is that the commissioner gets the power to set fees from a non-elected body that she runs.

We question just how much power and authority the Health Department should have. It should serve the will of the County Legislature and not be free to do as it pleases. We can understand a department dealing with vital health services having to be more authoritative in times of crisis or emergencies. But in everyday matters, it should be doing our will as instructed by our elected officials. Obviously, this is not the way it comes down.

Last summer, after the County Legislature had voted "no," on an anti-smoking ordinance the Health Department put into effect its own rules banning smoking in public places. This appears to us to be in direct violation of the principle of government by the people.

Queen Mary's move to impose an additional \$1,500,000 in taxes on Suffolk County residents without approval of the Legislature is an



arrogant gesture and an outright assumption of power that she doesn't have.

This is our government, and it is the government "of the people, for the people, and by the people." This was the way our forefathers intended it to be. Our forefathers had enough of rule by kings and queens and declared their

independence.

The County Legislature must investigate, and if necessary challenge in court McLaughlin's assumed powers. Our legislature must declare its independence and clip Queen Mary's wings. And why not?

A Course Worth Taking

In the next few weeks, the United States Power Squadron will be starting registration for the Spring session of their basic navigation course. We highly recommend everyone who anticipates becoming a boat owner take this course. It would also be advisable for even non-owners to take this basic navigational course as the information presented is of immense help to all mariners. Young people are not excluded from this course. Pre-adults as young as 12 are permitted to register.

The course covers basic marine terminology, safety precautions, rules of the sea, plotting, navigational aides, coast guard rules and regulations and other basic information.

The United States Power Squadron sponsors this course to foster safe seamanship. Generally given free, the course occasionally may call for a nominal registration or supplies fee depending upon the location. The sessions cover a ten week span, and at each meeting an instructor who is knowledgeable in a particular area will lead the session.

When I took this course, I already had 20 years experience on someone else's boat. I realized I was taking the course 20 years too late. A lot of dumb mistakes I made on other peoples' boats could have been avoided, and a knowledge of basic seamanship would have made that time even more enjoyable than it was.

This course was extremely valuable in my

eyes because it enabled me to have an accident-free first season on my own boat. The basic information given is uniformly important whether you are power or sail, row boat or yacht. The toll-free number you can call to find the location most convenient to your home is 800-243-6000. And why not?

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