

## Making an energy crisis

By now, most consumers realize the energy crisis of the mid 70's was nothing more than a ploy designed to raise the price of fuels.

The instant gasoline reached 60 cents per gallon, and fuel oil prices hit 45 cents per gallon, the energy crisis disappeared. It didn't matter that people were driving as much as they did before and consuming comparable amounts of energy. As long as they were willing to pay the price, the products were available in abundance.

Prices are again on the way up and there is talk of shortages. These projected, created shortages will make us willingly accept the idea of paying close to \$1.00 for a gallon of gasoline, more than 60 cents for fuel oil, and another exorbitant rate increase for LILCO. We sit here like pawns, incapable of defending ourselves.

Over the last few years, we have all read about alternative energy sources, but they are not readily available to us. It has been proven that gasoline mixed with economical,

easy to produce, alcohol, lets a car run better, cleaner and for less money. Gasohol, as it is called, is not available. Conversion kits are not promoted on the market. New cars are not being made to accept this alternative energy source which could cut our gasoline consumption by an estimated 25 per cent. Energy generally from non-fossil sources has been studied to death.

Laws governing rates encourage utility companies to use the most expensive methods of generating electricity.

Utilities by law, are forbidden from earning excess profits. If they find cheaper ways of generating electricity, rates go down, and so do company earnings. They would be left with less money to pay out in dividends. There is no incentive for utilities to use cheaper energy. There is a counter incentive. Government leaders from President Carter down to freshmen assemblymen are aware of this.

Since the last energy crisis, a major oil supply reported to be as large as

the reserves in the Far East, was discovered in Mexico. This oil could be a major source for the East Coast. The administration in Washington has played down the find, even though it is close, abundant and in a friendly country.

There will probably be an energy

crisis before summer. Energy will not be in short supply, credibility will: the credibility of our leaders in Congress and the President of the United States who have sat on their duffs and allowed the rape of the consumer to continue. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "Therefore, why?"

Dear Editor,

Rather than "Why Not," the question about your editorials really should be Why? When one thinks as simplistically as you do about problems, you should simplify to the maximum. Therefore, why? Why bother reading or writing them is the more appropriate question.

Your December 6 editorial on the Three Village Schools is so loaded with errors of the fact upon which you based your opinion that it is irresponsible to say the least.

For me, teachers are not "having trouble negotiating a new contract" as you say. They concluded a contract settlement in October. A check in your own back issues could verify that.

For another the "enormous" jump in property tax caused by the school budget this year was a whopping 2-1/2 per cent. Can you honestly label that "enormous". If so, why?

You state that "over 600 residents" attended the recent meeting. In an auditorium

that has only 500 seats and was not completely filled, the "over 600" figure is far from correct. Where do you go to get your facts Mr. Willmott, and why?

"The whole community is upset" you state in your second sentence. Yet, if you had attended the very next meeting following the organized rally you commented upon, you would have heard one parent applauded for thanking the Board for all their thankless effort on behalf of the children. I won't mislead you, this was only a regular Board meeting with the usual dozen or so interested residents.

Those erroneous "facts" are found in the first two paragraphs only.

Why bother with the rest? Why do you write such obvious errors and then draw such simplistic opinions from those errors? Why do I or anyone else bother reading Why? I won't.

Pat Lacoste  
Setauket

### "You will never see it"

Dear Editor,

If Patrick Henry thought taxation without representation was bad, he should see it with representation. This can very well apply to the recent proposal of the County Legislature to tax Eastern Suffolk residents for a service they do not receive. I am referring to the County Detective Division, whose services we use as needed and pay more than our fair share for its work. The Suffolk County Legislature feels that fairness does not count, but the opportunity to find a tax base to support their extravagant spending programs. You will now be involved in a county wide assessment for this service, although you will never see it. The taxpayer in Sag Harbor will be responsible for the

service in Selden, Hampton Bays for Hauppauge, Water Mill for Wyandanch, EASTERN SUFFOLK FOR EVERYONE ELSE.

We are proud to be in a party that from the inception of dialogue on Peconic County, identified with the issue, and it is evident by recent events that Peconic County is our only answer.

You are now involved in funding of the infamous Southwest Sewer District, but doesn't this piece of legislation seem to smell also. The Southampton Town Conservative Party urges all taxpayers to protest this ripoff.

Sincerely,  
James P. Drew, Sec.

### "I have been a happy. . .employee"

Dear Sir,

In response to your article pertaining to fringe benefits.

I have been a happy and fortunate employee of the Brookhaven Highway Dept. for the last 21 years. I started as a laborer at \$1.40 an hour with very little benefits. Today I do have these "fringe benefits" you talk of and believe me I am happy to have them.

You see, you and many other people who speak on this subject never mention the salary of these people with these benefits.

I am speaking for myself when I say for a person to come home with \$195.00 a week he sure can use every little "fringe benefit" he can get. The people who do not have too many fringe benefits go home with something like \$350 to \$400 a week and in some cases \$500 a week. If I could go home with this kind of money, I am sure I would settle for less "fringe benefits."

I hope I am making the point to you. You also mention that cutting these benefits back would help in our taxes. This my friend is false because in my case, the Brookhaven Highway Dept. only gets 1-10 of our town taxes from what I understand. You would have to go to another source which I say is your school taxes. They are the ones who take most of our taxes.

Now I would also like to make a suggestion to you and our town officials. Some years back, New York State came up with the idea of having O.T.B. (off track betting) which was supposed to go toward our education. Well, according to our taxes, this does not seem to be happening.

I suggest Long Island have its own O.T.B. towards our school taxes and as you say -- why not?  
Very truly yours,  
Charles Valentino

## Who should pay for jury duty?

All of us are subject to be called for jury duty. Answering this call, and making sure all people receive equal justice is part of our obligation to a free democratic system.

But for the days a person serves on a jury, he is only paid a pittance by the court.

For more people it is a fraction of what they earn. Most employers give an employee two options; they may receive pay by using vacation time, or they can take a leave of absence without pay. An individual faced with this predicament seldom serves on a jury willingly. At best, he is hostile because he has become another victim of the system.

When a man has to choose between feeding his family and loyalty to a governmental system, he doesn't have to do much thinking. That is the reason the great majority of people do

their damndest to avoid serving on a jury.

For the jury system to work, it cannot impose hardships on the jurors. The obvious solution is for the courts to pay every person who serves the equivalent of what they make in their jobs or professions. Offering a pittance that covers little more than expenses is ludicrous.

The jury system is an excellent way of protecting the rights of free men. For it to work it must be brought into the twentieth century. Few people can afford to give up their wages to insure someone else's justice. A parity with wages, although costly, would guarantee juries composed of representative cross-sections of society, and fill the jury boxes with people who are willing to serve. Let's do it. And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS

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Moriches  
Mastic, Shirley

Three Village  
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# Who will lose their job today?

## willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

I stopped in one of my favorite watering holes the other night and met an old-time acquaintance I had not seen since junior high school. He's married, has three kids, and

works at a job that pays him about \$10,000 a year. His wife works too. She earns around \$5,000.

He had just been fired from his second job as a gas attendant in a

service station because the federal government raised the minimum wage to \$2.90 per hour. His boss decided, with the increased cost, it wasn't worth it to stay open for the extra hours.

My old acquaintance was drowning his sorrows. He said although he was only getting \$2.75 per hour, this was the job that paid most of his real estate taxes and left him with a few bucks for himself. Without it, he didn't know how he would survive, let alone, improve his lot in life. His abilities are limited. His wife can't work any more hours and still have time to keep the house somewhat together.

He feels the minimum wage law is unfair. If he wants to work for whatever salary he is paid, what right does the government have to interfere? He doesn't blame his boss. He knows what they took in. Prior to the increase in the minimum wage,

his boss was barely able to meet his payroll and pay for the lights and heat. He knows his employer stayed open for the past six months just to keep himself and another guy in similar straights, going.

He asked a very pertinent question: What was accomplished by this raise? Some jobs aren't worth \$2.90 per hour, others can be done more economically by machine. Raising the minimum wage only pushes businesses into buying more machinery. When you raise the minimum wage, you increase some earnings, but not buying power.

My friend, twenty some years out of school, seemed to have a better grasp of economics than our country's leaders. Too bad he didn't display this common sense and wisdom when he was in school. He probably would have graduated, and with talk like this, might have been elected to office. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "I voted for Duryea"

Dear Editor:

Regarding your article on Peconic County, I myself am a registered Conservative and a Suffolk County resident. I voted for Duryea because I had no use for Carey. I am beginning to see that there are very few candidates that actually do anything for others, except when they themselves can profit.

I am in favor of the creation of this East-End county and since the dividing line will not be the William Floyd Parkway, then the supporters of this movement must consider a better geographic boundary that will not isolate the North Fork from the South Fork by letting Suffolk have access to Riverhead for any reason whatsoever.

Since the West End boundary has to be further East for this new county, then the boundary should run North to South from Wading River to Manorville to Center Moriches and should not include Fire Island proper in Moriches Bay. If this is not suitable then the final boundary must be Eastport-Calverton-Centerville, etc.

In conclusion, it is better to have a new county than no county at all. Luring new people and business there should not be hard and maybe Suffolk will look up and take notice of how this county operates. Let's hope that we don't see a Nassau or Suffolk nightmare.

Sincerely,  
Robert Jama

### "Our thanks"

Dear Dave,

I wish you could have been with us on Wednesday, November 29, to have seen the children's faces at the circus. Your kindness and thoughtfulness in providing us with the tickets was extraordinary.

The Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus is still "The Greatest Show on Earth"

and Nassau Coliseum did their utmost to provide all the extra things that the children required.

Again, I would like to send our thanks from the children and the staff of the B.O.C.E.S. II School at St. Charles Hospital.  
Best Wishes for the Holiday,  
Flora

### "It is cozy, short, neat, and sweet"

Hello!

You must know "Suffolk Life" is appreciated and enjoyed by all of us on the North Fork.

It is cozy, short, neat and sweet. I like it,

and so I enjoy telling you.

Happy Holidays to all the staff.  
Wholeheartedly,  
Lillie Jacobson Hooker  
Southold

### "Thanks so much"

Dear Editor,

Thanks so much for the coverage you gave the article on the new Mormon Church in Riverhead.

We will keep you in mind for the future for

any newsworthy events that happen in the church.

Thanks again.

Yours truly,  
Robert C. Leuissu

Our Circulation Department has been deluged with literally thousands of subscription renewals over the past week. As we explained in our news story and editorial, Suffolk Life does not send its readers individual bills. Instead, we print a subscription renewal form in the paper and ask every reader to voluntarily send in \$5.00 to cover the cost of the renewal. Thousands of readers have already responded to the one we printed in the last edition of 1978. Words cannot thank you enough. If you have not sent yours in, please fill in the form printed below and send it off with your check for \$5.00 today.

The subscriptions encouraged our entire staff to continue to fight what

often is a lonely battle. The funds go directly into building a better new product. With more people voluntarily paying for their subscriptions, we can become involved in more investigations and more general reporting on your government and the way it is run. Some of these reports have helped hold down your taxes. Others have helped you enjoy a better quality of life by warning you before disaster struck.

Your subscription is an investment in the quality of government you have and the quality of life you will be able to enjoy. Please, if you have not already done so, fill out the subscription form and send it in today. Thank you. And why not?

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## Warning to taxpayers

You have officially won the right to petition the Suffolk County government for tax relief. Secretary of State, Mario Cuomo, before leaving office, certified Suffolk County's Initiative and Referendum law. With the passing of this law, we expected to see efforts to sabotage the will of the people. But we did not expect anything so blatant as John Klein's "wolf in sheep's clothing act" during the State of the County address last Tuesday.

In his speech, Klein attempted to create the illusion that in this election year, he was the taxpayers' friend. He proposed a non-binding referendum on cutting taxes to the level set by California's Proposition 13. The key words of the address were NON-BINDING. Klein wants you to think you are voting for a real tax decrease.

In reality, his NON-BINDING referendum is nothing more than a poll which will give your government an indication of what you want them to do. He is counting on you, the supporters of this move, to burn

yourself out promoting this meaningless legislation. He is hoping that once you learn you have been tricked, you will boycott the polls in disgust when future votes are taken. Out of this Klein is hoping to somehow be identified with Initiative and Referendum and the tax rebellion.

Klein is a two-faced phoney. A has-been politician whose era is over. Klein wants a tax reduction like the Arabs want a dry spell. He has initiated tax increase on top of tax increase.

John Klein is largely to blame for the tremendous cost overruns in the Southwest Sewer District project and the bankrupting of many area residents. John Klein has been responsible both as County Executive and presiding officer of the legislature for raising the cost of county government from \$200 million to \$750 million in less than a decade. John Klein is responsible for you having to pay three cents out of every dollar for sales tax. John Klein is responsible for a substantial portion

of the increase in your real estate tax bills.

For this character to now turn around and pretend he is in favor of reduced taxes is not only ludicrous, it is absolutely hypocritical. It's an insult to your intelligence and the intelligence of the rest of the residents of Suffolk County.

Yes, we are going to have a Proposition 13 here in Suffolk County, but it is going to be a legitimate tax cutting bill. It will be a BINDING REFERENDUM, not a phoney non-binding one. Any politician with half a brain in his head and 10 per cent of his hearing has heard, loud and clear, the will of the people. THEY WANT THEIR TAXES CUT SHARPLY. THEY WANT THEM CUT NOW. They are tired of being conned, lied to and promised relief tomorrow.

This disgusting, despicable act by John Klein is nothing more than an incredible ploy to fool less knowledgeable taxpayers into

believing they will actually be voting themselves some form of relief. Every taxpayer group and organization throughout the county should be up in arms over this dirty trick. They should warn their members in no uncertain terms this vote is a phoney, Klein is a phoney and that the whole idea stinks. Save your strength and your organization's abilities and powers for a real referendum that will mandate tax cuts.

The new legislature can get off to a good start by not being suckered in by Klein's ploy. They should tell him to take a flying leap. The legislators know what the people want. They don't want \$100,000 to \$250,000 of their hard-earned tax money wasted on a meaningless referendum designed to improve John Klein's image.

Any politician who supports Klein on this issue will go down to defeat this coming November together with the King of Con. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "We thank you for your part"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The Patchogue-Medford Library Board of Trustees commends you for the fine article, written by Roy Kahn, on the library referendum November 16.

The article, well-timed to appear in the November 12 edition of Suffolk Life, accurately reported the situation in which the present library finds itself -- a library severely overcrowded, faced with limiting book acquisitions and losing substantial State

Aid.

The referendum on a \$1.9 million bond issue was passed by more than 2 to 1 by school district voters. We thank you for your part in bringing information to the public so that they could cast an informed vote.

Sincerely yours,  
Celia Hastings  
President  
Board of Trustees

### "I hereby demand"

Dear Mr. Klein:

In behalf of the Townwide Taxpayer's Association, I hereby demand, under the Freedom of Information Law under the State of New York, copies of all contracts between General Contractors and Sub-Contractors with the County in reference to the South West Sewer District. Further, copies of all payments made directly or indirectly to the

General Contractor or Sub-Contractor, and any other Company, Corporation or individual that are directly or indirectly associated with the construction of said Sewer District.

Louis J. Modica  
Vice-President  
Townwide Taxpayer's Association, Inc.

## The tenth of the month

Today is the tenth of the month. It's the day many people traditionally pay their bills. If you have not already done so, we hope you will include your Suffolk Life subscription for 1979 with your other payments.

This bill did not come in an envelope. It came printed on the front page of the last edition of 1978. We do not send out individual bills due to the expense. We print our bills on the front page of the last edition of the year. The money normally used for this bookkeeping and credit procedure we save and use for the development of our news product. If

you neglected to send in this bill, we hope you will take this opportunity to clip and mail the reproduction printed below.

We count on our readers to voluntarily renew their subscriptions each year. We need your subscriptions. They are a sign of the faith you have in Suffolk Life. We need the funds to continue the investigations, which help you live here in Suffolk and enjoy a better quality of life. Please, if you have not already done so, clip the coupon and send it in today. Your support is needed. And why not?

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# Organize not expand

As a prelude to a request for the expansion of the Suffolk Court system, Administrative Judge Arthur Cromarty, issued a press release. He noted delays on civil cases in Suffolk had jumped from three to four years since 1976. The press release built a case for expanded court facilities, and additional jurists and support personnel.

We do not dispute the backlog of cases. We do seriously question the need for enlarging the judicial system.

Having personally witnessed the maze of confusion, the waste of energy and the underutilization of space in Suffolk's courts, it would seem logical to us what is needed is a reorganization. The courts must be made more effective and more efficient.

At 10 am on any given court day, the waiting room is jammed with lawyers, litigants and witnesses. Most of the morning is wasted on calling the calendar. If you are lucky

your case is called, only to be interrupted by a long lunch hour. In civil matters, cases are seldom heard after 4 pm. On most days, an average court room does not entertain trials for more than five hours. Thousands of expensive attorney man-hours are wasted. Thousands of hours of litigants and their witnesses go down the drain.

A top notch administrator would not tolerate this system for one minute. A political hack, a bureaucrat, thrives on it. The more time wasted, the longer people have to wait for justice and the greater the need for a larger organization to administer. The result is the administrator accumulates more power.

Suffolk's court system is in a shambles, not because of over-utilization, but because of mismanagement. Litigants and their attorneys should be given a precise hour to go to trial. If they are not ready at the pre-arranged time the case should be automatically

# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

dismissed. Judges who allow postponement after postponement give justice to no one.

Trial schedules could be made even more precise if lawyers were required to estimate the length of their presentations when the trial dates are set. By establishing time slots for the cases, the system could begin to flow at a steady rate.

Reform should not be limited to scheduling.

Rather than allowing our four year backlog of cases to exist, courts should open early and stay open later.

In a democracy, justice is not a luxury, it's a necessity. Delayed justice serves no one's purpose, and

should not be allowed.

Whether the judicial system is aware of it or not, the taxpayers here in Suffolk County have said loud and clear they want no further expansion of their government. They want productivity. If judges worked a regular 40 hour week and courts remained opened and in full use for the full 40 hours, the backlog would disappear overnight.

Instead of the administrative judge lobbying for new and more expansive court space, let him show the residents of Suffolk County that the judges are making the most of what is already there. And why not?

# Readers' Opinion

## Tax land, not buildings

Legislators Dr. Martin Feldman, Anthony Noto and Michael Grant have requested a study be made of Suffolk County's method of taxing real estate, to determine if the current system of taxing improvements should be replaced by one based solely on land values.

Suffolk Life has editorially endorsed this concept over the past three years. It is a sound move, which is far more equitable than our present system.

Currently owners of unimproved land, farmland and huge tracts of barren land being held for development purposes, pay taxes on a fraction of their property's real worth.

Under this system, developers who wait until neighboring landowners develop their property before starting any kind of construction, enjoy appreciating land values and consistently low taxes.

Under the proposed system, taxes on vacant land would be based on its real values at today's market prices. The result would be billions of dollars in additional tax revenues which could help ease the tax burden on the average citizen. In addition, people would no longer be penalized for improving their property and keeping it up.

Our current system, which taxes improvements almost guarantees slums in older developed areas.

We all know of cases where people decided to make improvements on their homes and then stalled or abandoned the plans because their assessments would be raised and their taxes, increased. We hope the legislators agree to a man on this study, and the study can be conducted quickly so the measure might be enacted before the turn of the decade. And why not?

## "What do you think"

Dear Editor,

I just received the enclosed flyer which caused me to write this letter as well as one to the Superintendent of Schools.

Where are the priorities, and where do people come up with their estimates? It sounds like they have a band of over 200 kids who plan on flying first class and staying at the best hotel for a week.

Meanwhile, back in school, these kids have to live with a sub-standard library (according to the federal government survey) which will severely handicap students who want to get to college and do a good job; not to mention preparing the non-college kids to deal with life as it is here and now.

Personally, I would rather give our children the long-term advantage of a decent

education, than a one-time march in Washington, regardless of the quality of the band.

For \$25,000 we could get the Bookmobile here!

It also seems the Booster Club should think more than just cheering for whatever comes along. But, perhaps they are a product of this school system.

What do you think?

Sincerely,  
Mary Scott  
Sound Beach

ED. NOTE: Different strokes for different folks - They're soliciting for your contribution - not taxes - if you feel they have worked hard and earned the right to march - give. If books are your thing, start a drive for a library.

## "Thank you for your article"

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your article by Michele Block "Heart Patients have eyes on Texas." I was happy to see praise given where it belongs. To one, Dr. Michael De Bakey, I too went to him five years ago and thanks to him and God above, I am here today. I had a triple by-pass done. It is enlightening to see where you show he is more of a samaritan than a doctor. I too needed to go in a hurry. A call to him was made and the same day he returned the call, telling me to come down

immediately. At the time, my wife was 8 months pregnant and unable to go. Immediately after the operation, he himself called my wife and told her everything was fine. As for the cost, it was 1/4 of what I would have paid here in N.Y. So like I said before, thank you for giving praise where it belongs. God Bless Dr. Michael De Bakey. Sure wish there were more of him around.

John T. Witterman  
Holbrook

## "What is the truth?"

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to the miraculous leaf you had on the front page of Suffolk Life. Only God can create anything like that, is he not the Creator of all things? Our many faiths can be compared with the many branches on one stem on a tree. We branch out in different directions and our goal is God. God was pleased when a little girl age 10 pressed a leaf from his tree. Her age from 9-10 is to remind us of another miracle in our Century and that an obligation to God was not fulfilled. God is here on Earth to pass judgement. Mother Mary appeared to three shepherds May 13, 1917. Her message was entrusted with the Vatican, and promised to be revealed in 1960.

The message is now 18 years overdue. Shepherd Lucia who was 10 in 1917 is Sister Lucia now and still living. Francisco 9 and Jacinta 7 died as children. Our time to tell the truth will run out the end of this year. What is the truth?

"All faiths are recognized by God." Only God has the right to name "All first and himself last." He has genuine dignity. A coincident is established proof in the eyes of God. Jennifer Mc Alevey, age 10, and Lucia, 10. I can match the year 1917 backwards. I am 71 years old.  
Elizabeth Boesch  
Oakdale

# SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 18 NO. 90

NEWSPAPERS

and Suffolk County Life

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# Ban binding arbitration

This June, the law which established Binding Arbitration as a method of settling law enforcement labor disputes will come to an end,

unless the legislature acts otherwise. Binding Arbitration came into existence due to lobbying by police unions who argued they were at the

## willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

mercy of elected boards in labor disputes. They maintained impartial arbitrators or panels of arbitrators could listen objectively to the facts and reach conclusions that would be fair to everyone.

This argument was logical enough for legislators to buy, but the results have been quite different. Police unions have made outlandish demands, and with their collective dues, have been able to hire superb counselors to argue for them. Faced with the stiff union presentations, the arbitrators have left much to be desired. As a result, the awards have been excessive and absurd.

The arbitrators have not taken into consideration the communities' ability now or in the future, to fund their settlements. The elected boards and the taxpayers have virtually no recourse as the arbitrator awards are

binding on both parties and may not be renegotiated.

The New York State Legislature must consider the impact this has on the taxpayers on Long Island. Under no circumstances can they allow Binding Arbitration to continue without safeguards that restrict the total raises so they cannot exceed the earnings of the taxpayers. Provisions will also have to be made to rescind what has already been given.

It's obvious thousands of Long Islanders have given up, and are being forced to give up their homes and move to other areas because they cannot afford to live here. Our Legislature's actions on this matter will be a clear indication of who they represent; the people of their district or the uniformed law enforcement agencies and their powerful unions. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "Thanks a million"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I hope this finds you and yours in the best of health. On behalf of all the members of the Mount Sinai Citizen's Club, I want to say "Thanks a Million" for all the coverage you gave us on our "Grand Ma's Treasure Bazaar and Luncheon."

Funds available from this affair will make it possible for us to do some charitable work. We are going to present a check to the pastor of the Christ Community Church on North Country Rd. in Mt. Sinai, where our club meets. One of the many charitable works this church performs is to help the needy families of Mt. Sinai. We would appreciate it if you can give us some coverage in your paper, possibly a photo of our club President Lillian Lindner presenting a check to the church's Pastor, Rev. Robert Lee. He is free every Tuesday to Friday from 9 am to 12 noon. We would be most grateful if you could give us

some coverage from your very busy schedule. Our club president can be reached by telephone at 744-4204. If possible, would you please call Lillian to arrange a photo with Rev. Lee?

Incidentally, the "Suffolk Life" has made the congressional record. Last April 8, 1978, I appeared before a congressional select committee on aging hearing held in North Babylon, representing the Empire State Senior Citizens Conference. In my testimony, I read a letter which appeared in the "Suffolk Life". This was recorded in the congressional record. I think you can be very proud of the work you are accomplishing with your wonderful paper.

Sincerely,  
Paul E. Mortola  
Publicity Chairman  
Mt. Sinai Senior Citizens

### "All kinds of headaches"

Dear Dave:

On Election Day, the voters in Brookhaven approved a proposal making the township a "Suburban Town".

To quote Eugene Dooley, our efficient Brookhaven Town Clerk, "If used correctly, it could be a boon to the town, and very beneficial. If not, it could cause all kinds of headaches."

One questionable result of the change of status is the fact that department heads will no longer have to have civil service status, and could be appointed as a political plum.

Supervisor John Randolph, who has been given new power under the "Suburban Town Status", and the Town Board less power, promises to use all of his ability to improve government, efficiency, and reduce overall operating costs. Hopefully, he will be able to

keep his promise.

However, on the whole, the voters of Brookhaven undoubtedly approved the proposition for "Suburban Town Status", because they were also voting yes on the "Initiative and Referendum", and voted yes on the "Suburban Town Status", without proper priming or knowledge.

Perhaps our tax action committees within the Town of Brookhaven should take a look into "Suburban Town Status" and decide whether or not the people should have another vote on this after proper education on the pros and cons.

With best regards,  
Sincerely yours,  
Harold R. Hafner  
Sound Beach

### "I am proud that I chose teaching"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Please discontinue delivery of Suffolk Life to my house.

After a hard day's work as a teacher, I don't need to come home and read another one of your attacks on the members of my profession.

I am proud that I chose teaching as my career twenty-three years ago. I regret that

your own educational experience was so negative that you have allowed it to permeate your illogical and inaccurate editorials.

My salary will never compensate me for my time and efforts as a teacher, so I thank God there are other rewards in teaching.

A teacher and taxpayer  
Lillian Makay  
Selden

### "Get your facts straight"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This is the first letter I have ever written in response to any article or opinion published. I would like to answer Irate Senior Citizen. I am a retired police officer, one of whom she or he mentioned, and I wish that that person could receive my monthly pension check. Have been retired since 1968 and no cost of living has been granted or projected. I am

not in the age bracket to collect my Social Security and find it a little difficult to manage. There are plenty more people in my situation. Don't judge pensions by today's standard and get your facts straight before you talk.

Struggling  
Hampton Bays

## Investigating the investigators

The gang of three, Legislators Martin Feldman, Anthony Noto and Michael Grant have been kicking up a lot of dust with their investigations into the Southwest Sewer District. These good old boys have stepped out of line and the guys in the backroom ain't going to tolerate it. The gang of three has been warned in private and in public to cool it, but they have persisted.

Now these three, who have been investigating wanton waste in the Southwest Sewer District find themselves the target of an investigation by Suffolk District Attorney, Patrick Henry. Henry claims there is nothing sinister about the investigation, yet he is looking into the campaign finances of the three legislators during their last two terms in office. We find it mystifying that Henry is looking for irregularities in the campaign finances of Feldman, Noto and Grant and is not investigating the rest of the legislature.

Why is it he picked out the three

who dared to look into the Southwest Sewer District, and not the rest of the clowns who have gone along and kept their mouths shut? Obviously the whole Southwest Sewer District fiasco stinks. It would seem logical those who are keeping their mouths shut are the ones who should be investigated.

If Henry wants people to believe in the integrity of the District Attorney's office, he should expand his investigation to include all legislators past and present who have been involved in the decisions concerning the Southwest Sewer District. Don't stop at the legislature. Go back and look at the finances of the current and the last County Executives. Also, look into the political leaders and the political organizations that allegedly benefited from the creation of this pork barrel. Don't stop at the leaders, look at their families and the friends of the families.

If you are going to do something, do it right. And why not?

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# Duplication stalls progress

With the proliferation of government agencies and regulatory departments and the accompanying mountains of red tape, it is becoming more and more impossible to achieve progress in the State of New York. The classic example of this duplication and wasted effort is the Ponquogue Bridge fiasco in Hampton Bays.

The bridge, the only link between the mainland and Dune Road in the Hampton Bays area is in deplorable condition. It's rotting from within and without. Several years ago, the county recognized this condition and allocated funds for a new bridge. Preliminary studies were conducted, site plan preparations were made and construction plans were drawn up.

Then the regulatory agencies took over.

Since then, there has been one stall after another, and the taxpayers of Suffolk County have been forced to spend over \$150,000 to patch and resurface the present bridge. This bandaid will not correct the deterioration.

The latest delay is being caused by the Coast Guard which has suddenly shown an interest in the environment. What the devil does the Coast Guard think it's doing sticking its nose into the environment when we already have local, county, state and federal environmental agencies? They maintain they have jurisdiction over the wetlands.

Their interference and the resulting delays have already cost an estimated \$7 million. The expansion of the Coast Guard's authority and power coupled with the fact that they are duplicating what other agencies are already doing is a classic example

of why our government is so costly and isn't working.

We can see the Coast Guard being concerned with the height and the width of the bridge as it affects the canal which is a navigable waterway. But their involvement with the design is something else.

If we are going to allow ourselves to be regulated, we must set up a system of safeguards to eliminate duplication. It's a waste of energy and money to have a multitude of agencies passing on the same information. As we all know, when you have more than one person making a decision, you invariably have disagreements. Reaching a compromise can take years, as it has with this bridge.

If we do not come to grips with the problems of regulating regulators, progress will not only be stifled on a simple bridge project like this, but on all construction across the country. And why not?

## willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Readers' Opinion

### "Thanking you once again"

**Dear Friends:**  
After thirty (30) years of serving the residents of both Brookhaven Town and the Village of Patchogue as Superintendent of Recreation, I am retiring.  
Before I leave, however, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and all of the other organizations, who over the years, have made it possible for me to give our residents the finest recreation program here in Suffolk County. Without your cooperation, it would have been impossible for me to achieve the goals for which I have strived.  
Leaving all of you and the Brookhaven

Town Recreation Department presents before me a certain amount of sorrow and sadness. I will, however, take with me many happy memories which I have gathered during our association.  
Trusting that you will continue to cooperate with the Brookhaven Town Recreation Department so that they may be in a position to continue the programs for young and old alike. Thanking you once again, I remain.  
**Recreationally yours,**  
**Peter J. Poulos**  
Supt. of Culture & Recreation

### "A good example for us to follow"

**Dear Mr. Willmott:**  
Western Suffolk legislators propose a raise in the East End county tax to help pay for the salaries of county detectives working in Western Suffolk.  
If their proposal is successfully passed by the legislature, I suggest an East End campaign to destroy these western legislators politically in their own districts. This could be easily accomplished by informing their constituents about the truth of what their representatives have done; suggesting that what the legislators did to us on the East End, they could just as easily do in their own districts.  
The people of Forest Hills, N.Y. are a good example for us to follow. They trailed Mayor John Lindsay of New York City to the convention in Florida with leaflets and verbal information about his action in Forest Hills. This tactic insured that the Mayor did not receive the Presidential nomination or any place on the ticket at all.  
Why don't we on Eastern Long Island use

similar methods against the Western Suffolk legislators? We could follow them into their own districts at renomination and re-election time.  
**Yours truly,**  
**Joseph B. Maggio**  
Hampton Bays

### "I enjoy your editorials"

**Dear Mr. Willmott,**  
Enclosed check for \$10.00 is for 1978 subscription and for any post year I neglected to pay. My husband & I enjoy your editorials, and always agree with you. Wish I had the opportunity to vote you into political office.  
**Sincerely,**  
**Mrs. Lillian Andersen**

## In unity there's a fighting chance

You have been complaining for a long time about the burden of taxes. You know you are not alone. Everyone you talk to is having the same problem. You have probably even heard of taxpayer and civic groups organizing to fight for justice. Still nothing happens. The reason is there are literally hundreds of civic and taxpayer groups throughout the state working towards the same goal but through different means. The politicians know as long as the citizens are not unified, they can be dealt with as nothing more than inefficient loudmouths.  
Leaders of several independent taxpayer groups have recognized this as a problem which must be overcome. The groups must unify.  
A meeting has been set to bring together all Suffolk County civic and taxpayer groups in a coalition. Suffolk Life has volunteered to

compile a list of the individual groups throughout Suffolk.  
If you belong to a civic association or taxpayer group and would be interested in exploring the feasibility of operating in a coalition on tax matters, please fill in the form below. You will receive an invitation to attend the first meeting.  
It is anticipated the Suffolk coalition could be the spearhead of a state-wide movement.  
A state-wide organization must be founded to provide the coordinated manpower, support and financing for a state-wide Initiative and Referendum law. Once passed, it could lead to a Proposition 13 for New York.  
Do not miss this opportunity to have your group or organization listed and invited to this formation meeting. Fill out the form printed below and send it in today. And why not?

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Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

President's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_

Send form to Coalition, c-o Suffolk Life Newspapers, P.O. Box 262, Westhampton, New York 11977

# Why is Klein rushing?

## willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

A highly controversial proposal has been made to use the Suffolk County Airport as a debarking port for cattle destined for the Far East.

On the surface, the proposal appears to have merit. The company is willing to pay annual rents totalling \$15,152, a \$200 landing fee for each plane and \$2.50 for every cow shipped.

It is estimated the airport could eventually be the debarking point for approximately 425 cattle per week.

As expected, the project came under severe criticism from Westhamptonites who have had the quality of their lives undermined a number of times when jets used the airport. The main concern over the cattle shipping plan seems to be centered around the health factors and the odor these beasts could generate. Regardless of public sentiment, County Executive John V.N. Klein has zealously supported the idea. He was even ready to bypass normal review channels to authorize the use of the airport.

We find this action extremely curious, as Klein has persistently maintained nothing should be done with the airport, particularly anything that would mean a long-range commitment, until the master plan study is completed.

The State of New York has become concerned with the impact this cattle moving operation will have on the airport. The State Department of Environmental Conservation has intervened and has become the lead agency in determining the project's environmental impact on the airport and the surrounding area. The state is asking the questions the county should have asked but for some

range reason didn't. The DEC's investigation will take several months, and there is a better than a 50-50 chance the site will not be approved. According to rumors, even though Klein is aware of this and has agreed the airport should not be bound by any long term commitments, he plans to sign the lease.

Before he sets his signature to the paper which, in theory, obligates every resident of Suffolk to the lessee, the present condition of the runways and how they will hold up under heavy use must be considered. The Air National Guard studied the runways two years ago. At best, they are in

shaky condition. The Guard recommended they be rebuilt. The estimated cost was \$50 million. If use was limited and controlled, however, they could remain usable for a few more years.

If Klein goes ahead and signs the lease and the runways break down from the heavy usage, will Suffolk County government and we as taxpayers be obligated to rebuild them in the near future? We also wonder why Klein has not insisted on language being written into the lease limiting the lessee's import and export privileges exclusively to cattle. Has Klein and his staff bothered to investigate what the lessees intend to import?

To make the operation profitable, planes arriving at Westhampton to remove the cattle will have to be filled with something. What is this something and why have the lessees refused to divulge their intentions?

We are all in favor of seeing the Suffolk County Airport put to proper use. We would like, however, to see this use merged with the needs and desires of the community. The airport should be an asset, not a liability to the region. This is the reason a master plan is being developed.

Ironically, the Federal Aviation Administration criteria for developing a master plan requires planners to seek out all community opinions even before creating preliminary plans. Yesterday, Trans Plan which was engaged to do the master study, held its first formal meeting with the community of Westhampton. The final form of Trans Plan's report is due next month. It does not appear to us this leaves much time for community input.

When did the community have the opportunity to interface with the planners during the formulation of the airport master plan? Is it just coincidence that the first public hearing was held in the dead of winter when many of Westhampton's vocal and knowledgeable residents were out of the area?

Personally, as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Suffolk County Airport, I have never been contacted by Trans Plan for any reason. To my knowledge, no other member of the committee has been

contacted either. Logically, if Trans Plan wanted to develop a master plan that would be acceptable to the community, they would have made a stronger effort to contact both the general public and those involved with the airport.

Under John Klein's reign as County Executive, Suffolk County Airport has been fraught with shady back room deals.

Klein announced in his second State of the County address, one of his top priorities for this coming year was to finally make a determination on the fate of the airport. Many of the problems would be solved if Klein simply kept his grubby hands off the airport and stayed out of what could be an efficient operation.

As the airport stands now, it is a barren wasteland created by the county executive to absorb hard-

earned tax dollars and rob residents of incentive and employment. It's the East End's monument to the inefficiency and the waste of a politically elected official who lacks either the ability or the desire to be an administrator.

Klein must be forced to wait until the master plan is completed, and the DEC has concluded its study before he signs any lease. Klein and the legislature's legal beagles should carefully study who will pay for rebuilding the runways if they are damaged by the cattle transport operation.

If it is to be the county's obligation to rebuild them, we must weigh the estimated \$50 million cost against the possible economic gains from a cow moving operation or any other business. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

"I would like to express my opinion"

Dear Mr. Henry:

I attended an open board meeting of the Town of Southold on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at which it was mentioned that your office had requested office space in our new town hall.

I would like to express my opinion about this and perhaps you would be kind enough to respond with your ideas and explanations.

My objections are twofold. One, I question the wisdom of having a district attorney's office so closely related to a town government. It is my understanding that we need you, that often our cases fall thru for lack of a prosecutor and, therefore, in that sense, I suppose you are welcome. I think it would be preferable if your offices were elsewhere. There is sufficient reason to fear the authoritarianism of the Southold Town government without having that fear reinforced by your presence under its political roof. Would you consider other options? Rental of space is the most obvious or possibly constructing a building in Peconic near the Police Station on town land?

Due to the smallness of the township, we already have a problem of who to go to when something goes wrong involving the friend of someone in the town. For complaints regarding the police, we have to go to Riverhead and I am now asking you where do we go for complaints regarding corruption, deception or misuse of the public trust within our government? I am not asking you this rhetorically, I really would appreciate being told.

I hope you will take this opinion under consideration.

The second objection is that I feel we should utilize our own space in the town hall. I don't know if you are thinking of establishing a permanent office or only a temporary one, but I think this, too, ought to be considered.

A few days back, I had an appointment in Riverhead with an investigator in your Investigations office and I would like to make a request. The appointment was arranged at his convenience rather than mine. I arrived at the building, went up a padded elevator and was greeted by a guard and a locked door. I asked information from the secretary of one of your assistant DA's with whom I have been trying to speak for months and received insolence from her. By the time the investigator was free, I had removed my

'badge' and was getting ready to leave. Two men came to meet me and as we were walking along the other side of the locked door, I was told to put on the badge by the man who was not the investigator and I don't know what his role was other than guard. A few more things occurred and I walked out. The man with whom I had the appointment, incidentally, seemed quite nice but the aura created was more than negative. Could you not perhaps create a meeting place for complaints with less security involvement and more pleasantness? What I had hoped to do was receive information in regard to problems with the functioning and actions of the local police department. Information on this also would be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Jody Adams  
Peconic

"Don't judge a book  
by its cover"

Dear Mr. Willmott,

A reply to (name withheld), or "Irate over seniors budget gripes". It's a known fact, that you will get old, whether you get there or not is like a lottery, you keep praying to hit it. So let those that are there enjoy what little they got left out of life, and God only knows if they can stash money away, more power to them. I hope they stash an extra \$500 after they read your letter.

What did you think Social Security was designed for. By the time you get there, you're too old to really enjoy it, and I would imagine it's a lonely road to travel. So if they got gripes, good, that's what it's all about. Freedom to speak out is wonderful, the oldsters speak out, you speak out, I spoke out, even the principal of schools speak out. The only people I have not heard speak out are the poor children that are kept from education, because of illegal strikes. On the whole as younger folks can't complain. We live in a world of \$green\$ today and some how it always looks greener in the other guys yard, but don't judge a book by its cover.  
Almost There

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# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## In a backroom of Suffern'

Bergen Sewer Plant, County of Suffern' - Mid-winter, 1979

Oh! ye faithful readers, It has been a time since I took pen in hand. But the latest bit of trivia to pass mine ears must be told.

Less than a fortnight ago, King John and some of his cronies, all up to their necks in the muck of the South-

west Sewer District, held a meeting with their brethren from the County of Nassau. At this meeting there were also representatives of King Hughie's State Department of Environmental Conservation and the regional head of the EPA from the highest order of J.C.'s government.

The real purpose of this gathering of big shots was to bail King John, his

cronies and the federal EPA leader out of the sludge they've created in ye poor Southwest Sewer District. Sir Eckhardt, from the order of J.C. was anxious to put an end to the controversy surrounding this peasant bankrupting pork barrel. He was quoted as saying we must devise a way of putting an end to the outrageous political attack on poor King John.

One of the mucky mucks raised his head above the swill long enough to gasp, "A blue ribbon panel is the vehicle we must use." King John gleefully squealed, "I love blue ribbon panels, especially if I get to name the members." Then Sir Eckhart, trembling with excitement extolled the virtues of this wonderful suggestion, but cautioned that care must be taken to make the servants look legitimate.

A thundering voice was then heard amongst the gathering. "How much is this going to cost? Who will pay for it? it asked.

Sir Eckhardt squeaked, "A mere \$400,000." The order of J.C. will pay 75 per cent, thou State would pay 12.5 per cent and the counties of Nassau and Suffolk will split the difference.

"Oh! how glorious", the politically persecuted King of Suffern' proclaimed. "So little money my peasants will have to spend to make

me look like the hero instead of the werewolf of the Southwest Sewer District during this election year."

But the King of Nassau grunted, "Count me out.

"I ain't runnin' next year and I don't need no dad-blamed blue ribbon panel picked by the King of Suffern' lookin' into my sewers. They are as clean as a whistle. Besides ain't nobody heard about the taxpayers rebellion?"

The State D.E.C. grumbled something unintelligible about King Hughie not particularly feeling any acute pressure to bail the King of Suffern' out of the sewers. After all, what had the Suffern' King done for him last fall during his hour of need?

And so it went. The decision was made, at the pumping station and sealed in concrete that had failed to dry. A plot would be developed to create a prestigious blue ribbon panel filled with King of Suffern' loyalists who would look without seeing, smell without sniffing, hear without listening, and never bother to investigate the scandalous conditions of the Southwest Sewer District.

As this scribe concludes this epitaph he leaves the faithful to ponder this question: "What kind of man considers his reputation so meaningless that he lends his name to such a sham. And why not?"

## Readers' Opinion

### "People need the farmer"

Dear Editor:

During the past two months, farmers have become annoyed with the furor and controversy generated by local residents over the farm labor residence application on the Schmitt farm.

With the controversial attitude surrounding this application, one would be led to believe that he was requesting a drastic change of zoning which would be detrimental to the area. (Such as a gas station, stores, oil storage tanks).

Mr. Schmitt purchased this farm over twelve years ago, and has rented the land to other farmers. Now comes the day when he intends to use this farm for his own purpose - a "green vegetable farm." Mr. Schmitt intends to build a home for his family, a barn for his equipment and a farm labor residence.

Farmers know from past experience that on-site housing has been the major factor in obtaining and retaining reliable labor necessary to operate a green vegetable farm. Crops such as romaine lettuce, escarole, chicory, cabbage, spinach, onions, radishes, horse radish and many others will not tolerate mechanical harvesting. Extensive hand labor is essential in the growing, harvesting and shipping process. These type of vegetables are perishable and only harvested on the day of shipment.

Mr. Schmitt and his father have been farming well over 50 years in Nassau and Western Suffolk. During these years of farming, he has always maintained on-site housing for his labor force. In this period of time, he has not experienced any difficulties from governmental agencies, police or his neighbors. By moving his farm operation to Riverhead, he intends to retain his present type of labor, which has proven to be reliable and best adapted to this type of farming. Most of his present labor requirements are from other areas and are housed on the farm for the season. When work is finished at the end of the season, they return home.

Recently, at a public hearing of the Riverhead Planning Board, questions were asked "Why not employ local labor?" "Why not employ school students?" Farmers have used local labor, which has proven to be very unproductive and unreliable. (After being paid, will not report to work for a day or two, sometimes not at all. Will not work Saturday or Sunday when needed). School students are employed on the local farms during the summer months. A farm can accommodate only a certain amount of students during this period. A farmer must rely on his full-time reliable labor force after the student returns

to school. The reliable type of labor that is best adapted to green vegetable farms comes from Puerto Rico. I and many other farmers have used laborers from Puerto Rico for many years and they have proven to be very satisfactory.

Some people are claiming loss of real estate value, vandalism, mugging and rape, shooting and bodily damage if a farm labor residence permit is granted. I contend that real estate value of the area will not be affected due to the location of the building on the farm property with proper screening imposed. Farmers have good control of the laborers when the relationship is farmer to employee. Vandalism is practically non-existent; fear of rape and mugging is fear created in one's mind. I agree shooting and bodily damage does happen to a certain extent, but as you will notice, it occurs within their own race. At present, Riverhead and surrounding areas are experiencing "in our own great society" the problems of murder, assault, vandalism, rape, mugging and theft. So, how can one justify that this will only happen if a farm labor residence permit is granted? I believe people are over-reacting and are saying to themselves and others, "Stop the world, I am here and I want it to remain as it is." Little do they realize how much nicer it was before we (you and I) arrived to change the area.

I strongly urge the Town Board grant this application, so that Mr. Schmitt can go on peacefully, engaged in the operation of farming which he is so highly qualified.

Recently, a statement was quoted, "I pick the people over the vegetables." I believe it would have been appropriate to say, "People need the farmer and the farmer needs the people."

Bill Nohejl  
Wading River

### "Is nothing 'sacred' anymore?"

Dear Editor:

Is nothing "Sacred" anymore? The recent release of the news of the President's condition by the News Media really incensed me. Have they no respect for the highest office of the land? I think it is not only demeaning but uncouth. I am foreign born and I find this piece of news Abhorrant. "A Naturalized Citizen" Who dearly loves this country!

## Parr acquitted

Ronald Parr founder of Parr Meadows race track, was acquitted last week of charges that through misrepresentation to a bank he stole \$3.5 million.

From the beginning the case seemed fraught with deception and cloaked in suspicion. It appeared to be a purely political maneuver designed to break this entrepreneur who wouldn't play ball with crooked financiers, politicians and the underworld. The trial, the longest in Suffolk County, uncovered a truckload of allegations, leads and suspicious situations which must be investigated.

Parr maintained from the beginning, he was a victim of a coalition of dishonest politicians, underworld figures and questionable financiers. He even offered evidence to substantiate his allegations.

Mysteriously, the Suffolk County

District Attorney, the State Attorney General's office and the Federal Attorney General ignored him. Instead, the State Attorney General's office made him the target of an investigation which was ultimately thrown out at Parr's trial.

If there is ever to be justice here in Suffolk County, Ronald Parr's allegations and his offers of evidence must be checked out. If substantiated, those who tried to ruin him should be brought to trial.

Many other businessmen have felt the same pressures Parr was subjected to, but few have had the determination, the ability or the pure guts to fight back. If justice is to be served, let the County, the State and the Federal justice departments do their jobs so Suffolk will no longer be known as the Wild West of the East. And why not?

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## Carter missed the point

President Carter's State of the Union address had been heralded as a fiscally conservative, anti-inflation approach to government. It turned out not to be true. With flowery platitudes and catchwords, Carter paid lip service to the taxpayer revolt and the effects of inflation on the average person, but offered nothing concrete for us to grasp.

Carter seems to have totally missed the point. The citizens of the United States want relief from taxes and inflation. Taxes are gobbling up their earnings and inflation is eroding their buying power. The problem may be complex but the solution isn't.

The government is a direct beneficiary of inflation. As inflation pushes the cost of goods and wages up, the government takes a larger percentage of the tax dollar. The incentive the federal government receives from inflation must be eliminated to stop the spiral. This can be accomplished by tying inflation to taxes through indexing. As inflation forces the number of dollars you earn to increase, the percentage of taxes you pay is readjusted downward to compensate for the effects of inflation.

Canada adopted this system years ago. The government felt there was a

need to keep the average citizen's tax obligation constant. Our government leaders have refused to do this. The reason is simple. Inflation gives the government silent but deadly tax increases without stirring up the controversy or opposition a formal tax increase would.

In the past 10 years, inflation has pushed the earnings of an average family here on Long Island from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Even though \$20,000 buys less today than \$10,000 did 10 years ago, the average person's tax obligation has been increased from 14 per cent to 36 per cent. As long as our income is taxed progressively without indexing, we have no hope of keeping up with inflation.

When Carter finished his speech, we first were angry over being conned into wasting our time listening to poorly delivered nonsense. Then we realized this was the best Carter could do. To say something meaningful, Carter would have had to recognize the enemy is the government. The government's incentive to preserve inflation must be removed. But as the head of the biggest bureaucracy in the world, Carter could not bring himself to bite the hand that feeds him. And why not?

## "Please help in this fight"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I would like to respond to Mr. Rametta and the other Leisure Village residents who are as misinformed as he. Mr. Rametta was not forced to move to Leisure Village in the Middle Island School District where taxes are quite high. Unfortunately, residents in the Middle Island School District do not reap the benefits of having LILCO pay much of the school taxes the way neighboring Shoreham-Wading River does. I am sure that Mr. Rametta is referring to Shoreham when he quotes taxes of \$1,200 per year on single family homes in the \$40-\$50,000 price range.

I live in such a house in the same district as Mr. Rametta and my taxes are over \$2,700. For this, I get to shovel my forty foot driveway, cut my own grass and pay dearly for trash collection. For Mr. Rametta's \$1,670, he has these services done for him. I sympathize about last winter's snow removal problem, but many single family homeowners were also stranded and in some areas were forced to abandon their homes for up to two weeks. Hopefully, the snow problem will be remedied.

Finally, I would like to comment on Mr.

Rametta's mention of security. Police protection is often necessary because of petty thievery and vandalism. This problem exists in Leisure Village as well as in single family home communities. Who are the perpetrators of these crimes? Often, they are the teenagers who should be busy at school-related activities. Our children are not benefiting from extra-curricular activities because of people like Mr. Rametta who vote down proposals like the one just defeated in Middle Island. Mr. Rametta has denied these important activities and saved himself and his fellow Leisure Village residents the huge sum of about \$8 for the whole school year.

Yes, senior citizens and Leisure Village residents have genuine gripes in this unfair New York State set-up of how schools are funded, but legislation is the answer, not NO votes for our children.

Mr. Rametta, please help in this fight for tax reform with as much determination as you show towards fighting today's youth.

Hopefully,  
Carole Willner  
Coram

## "I can't tell you how much . . ."

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I can't tell you how much I enjoy your anti-teacher editorials.

It was in 1967 when I graduated college and entered the teaching profession. My friends literally laughed at me. Many of them went on to become lawyers, doctors, accountants, businessmen and immediately earn big bucks. My interest was in teaching, although I could have pursued other careers including professional baseball. At that time, employment opportunities in teaching were boundless and I scooped up the \$6,000 starting

salary.

Teaching has been good to me after more than 12 years. My love and dedication to the profession still endures and most of all, I'm thankful to be what I am regardless of my salary and benefits; anyone who looks at life through these reflections without regard to accomplishment and self respect is a fool!

I am that vulnerable teacher who after all these years is now laughing hysterically at YOU!!!

Lovingly yours,  
The teacher with the red Caddy

## What we don't need is more welfare

Even though Proposition 13 fever is running rampant in the State of New York, politicians continue to talk about increasing welfare benefits.

Just last week, the new Assembly Speaker, Stanley Fink, was advocating allocating an additional \$50 million of your tax money to fund increases for welfare recipients. Fink wants to increase flat grant funds so welfare recipient handouts can be adjusted for inflation. Fink ignores the fact New York State's welfare grants are the highest in the nation. They are almost 50 per cent higher than many of the industrial states surrounding New York.

Politicians like Fink may owe their elections to welfare voters, but Fink also has an obligation to the hard working residents left in New York State. That obligation is to make welfare no more lucrative here than anywhere else in the nation.

It is unconscionable to ask the citizens of New York State to sacrifice the quality of their lives and now, their necessities, to fund a better way of life for those who can't and won't work.

New York State is living proof that when welfare recipients get a

better deal in another state they migrate. Our welfare load is made up of thousands of families and individuals who are not native New Yorkers, but moved here with the express purpose of getting on the lucrative dole funded by the hard-working citizens.

Let New York State set up a schedule to reduce welfare benefits so we pay no more than the national average. Welfare recipients who find this unappealing can pack up and move to states that wish to commit financial suicide.

The working residents of New York are being forced to give up their jobs, their homes and their way of life because of the repressive taxation caused in part by our liberal and lucrative welfare program. If the politicians can stomach this, they certainly should be able to stomach cuts in the amount doled out to the unproductive portion of the population. Let bleeding hearts like Fink and the other super liberals in the State start showing some common sense, and once again New York could be a state worth investing and living in. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "Why can't someone control the waste"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The first winter snow came and went last Friday. On that day it was necessary for me to spend my working hours on the road.

The streets were quite dangerous. To my amazement there were no plows or sand trucks anywhere. Considering last year's weather, I expected to see an army of salt trucks. But, nothing.

Nothing, that is until six o'clock. By that time, the rain had pretty much dissipated the white stuff. On my way home from work, I saw eight snow plows, that is in a two mile

drive.

The only thing I could assume was someone held back the word to send out the plows until overtime could be collected.

My property taxes are now two thousand dollars a year on a two bedroom house. If this type of thing continues, my taxes will rise to a point where I will be forced from my home.

Why can't someone control the waste?

Yours truly,  
George A. Pope  
E. Patchogue

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