

## Can You Afford It?

You, the taxpayers of Suffolk County, must ask yourself whether you can afford the proposed settlement between County Executive Peter Cohalan and the Civil Service employees of Suffolk County. After almost a year of bitter negotiations, Cohalan is alleged to have thrown his top deputies into the middle of the negotiations with the sole purpose of reaching a settlement between the C.S.E.A. employees and his office, which is supposed to represent you, the taxpayers.

Up to this point, the county's labor negotiator had been working on the premise that the taxpayers could afford and absorb an approximate 27 percent increase in cost for salaries of the county workers over a three year period. Once the politicians, the deputies of Cohalan, got into the middle of the negotiations, they gave away the store. How you are going to afford or absorb \$111,000,000 in additional taxes over the term of this contract is beyond us.

The over-all package they negotiated starts with a flat 7 percent one time bonus to cover the raise due county employees for 1982. But then, for 1983, 1984 and 1985, they have come up with a package that will raise all county employee's wages by 32.9 percent. Wages for employees on lower steps also will be raised an additional 23.6 percent by eliminating the first five steps which, in effect, are raises for longevity. Some county workers, over the life of this contract, will have their salary increased by 57.6 percent, in addition to a flat 7 percent bonus for 1982. Over all, the contract reflects a 43.2 percent increase in annual cost between 1981 and 1985.

The C.S.E.A. contract is but one of three negotiated this year. The combined cost of those three contracts, C.S.E.A., county police and sheriff's department will cost you, the taxpayers, \$73,000,000 per year more just in salary increases alone by the end of 1985. In addition to those salary raises, the benefit package has been substantially increased as well.

Currently, the costs of fringe benefits range from a low of 47.3 percent to as high as 84.7 percent on top of the gross salary or hourly rates. The variation is determined by the longevity of the employee and if he is on Tier 1, 2, or 3 of the retirement system. Under the proposed contract, the minimum starting salary for the

least skilled worker joining the county force, when fringes are factored, will be \$7.44 per hour. A substantial portion of current county workers who are earning at the mid-scale will be accelerated to top scale during the life of this contract. The period of time it will take a county worker to go from starting step to top step has been cut in half. This is one of the hidden benefits of the contract that will be enormously expensive in the future.

The contract and its provisions are an utter disgrace. There is no justification, even politics is not an excuse. Cohalan and his deputies have let the people of this county down. Cohalan was elected by a huge plurality and given a mandate to run this county effectively, efficiently and, particularly, economically. Disposable income of the taxpayers has taken a hell of a beating over the last three years. We are far worse off today than we ever have been. There is no surplus of income to fund such extravagance. This contract is neither fair, cost effective nor affordable.

This proposed extravagance can still be stopped. The Suffolk County Legislature must now ratify the contract. A motion for ratification is expected to come before the Legislature on January 11. Only if you voice your concern to your legislator will he have the courage to act as a balance of power of the county executive. Only if you voice your concerns loud and clear will he have the courage to stand up to the public service unions who will be beating down his door, threatening him with political extinction if he does not support this rape of you, the Suffolk County taxpayers.

In our 20 years of covering government, we have never seen such an unfair proposal or blatant sell out of the taxpayers. We have never seen any item, including the South West Sewer District, that will cost the taxpayers as much money at one time.

It is up to you! Your last hope is to make sure the legislators act as elected officials who have responsibility to the taxpayers as well as the county employees. There is not a person on either side who can say that this contract is fair to all concerned. It must be sent back to the negotiating table.

And why not?

## Beyond Sanity

The moon must have been full when the County Executive's offices and its negotiators agreed to a provision in the new contract for Sheriff's deputies, which would give them time and a half pay for an hour each day, while they commute, in cars provided by the taxpayers, to and from work. This includes those being chauffeured in car pools, and also gives the deputies that time and a

half goodie even on days they don't work, vacations or sick time. This extra was slipped into a contract which also offered very nice salary and fringe benefit increases.

According to county negotiators, they agreed to this nonsense because of claims by Sheriff Department officials that the deputies sometimes work while enroute to or from their jobs, delivering papers and such.

And, because they sometimes act as good samaritans and help the general public along the roadways, offering aid to stranded motorists, as do members of the public who receive no pay for such action.

Rather than simply pay those who work extra time the extra pay, county officials decided it would be too complicated to do that and decided to pay everyone, whether they perform the extra work or not. After all, it's only about a half million dollars extra for the taxpayers to pay.

Fortunately, the Legislature had

the rare courage to reject the sheriff's contract because of this provision, sending it back to the bargaining table. Hopefully, the new negotiations will take place with an aura of sanity. But who knows? The Legislature may be faced with a new provision in the contract calling for the pay for the sheriff's deputies to be sent to their homes so they need not be bothered to come to work at all. Anything is possible in the land of suffering where the norm is unreality.

And why not?

## Anderson Sell-Out Business

It wasn't until the waning hours of 1982 that it was clearly defined who was the biggest clown of the State Legislative season. Unquestionably, Warren Anderson, the Senate majority leader deserves this distinction of being the fool of 1982.

Hugh Carey, as he was preparing to bow out as Governor, laughingly told the press how he had suckered Warren Anderson into passing a profit excise tax to fund the M.T.A. so that the fares of the straphangers would be kept artificially low. Carey made a laughing stock out of Anderson by maneuvering him into a corner to tax those who have been most favorable to the Republican party, business and industry.

He not only added insult to injury by having business and industry taxed on top of taxes, but kept it confined to the 12 county areas, downstate, where the

majority of the business and industry contributions for the Republican party come from.

As much as he made a fool out of Anderson, Carey made a total ass out of himself by announcing on his retirement that "the tax was not needed at all." There was no crisis, it was just his farewell shot to the loyal opposition who had proved in the end that they weren't much opposition at all.

Which only goes to prove that when you are in a fight with an Irishman be careful: they don't get mad, they get even.

Two of the fool's helpers in this fiasco were Suffolk Senators James Lack and Caesar Trunzo who, in voting for this tax on top of tax, voted against Long Island's business and industry. For shame!

And why not?

## There Is Not Much Difference

You would think that Liberals and Conservatives would be miles apart when it comes to government financing. Not so, when it comes to increasing their own salary. Personal greed does not know political labels as we witnessed with Liberal Thomas Downey and Conservative William

Carney joining hands and passing a nice fat pay raise for themselves during the lame duck session of Congress.

Greed is the only thing we expect these two fine examples of public servants to agree upon, personal greed. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

To the Staff:

Thank you for being so nice each time I place an ad. The "Life" is the only paper I

ever deal with.

Happy Holidays.  
Mrs. S. Humphrey

## SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 22 NO. 20

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 284-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000  
Mailing address: Box 262 Westhampton N.Y. 11977 or Box 167 Riverhead N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 19 market zone editions every Wednesday  
North Fork Patuxent Centereach Rocky Point  
Riverhead Medford Seiden Port Jefferson  
Hampton East Holbrook Hottelville Coram Three Village  
Mid Hampton Sayville Mystic Shirley  
Westhampton Oakdale  
Martha's Vineyard

Total circulation audited and verified in excess of  
194,000 Circulation Weekly



Suffolk Life is an official newspaper of Town of Southampton, Town of East Hampton, County of Suffolk, Rocky Point School District, Patchogue-Medford School District, Suffolk County. It is published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of Town of East Hampton, Town of Riverhead, Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher  
John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor  
Martin J. Cann - Director of Sales  
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director  
Angela Gingo - Co-op Coordinator  
Claire Swanik - National Sales Director  
Ted Conlon - Retail Sales Manager

Peter Parpan - Production Manager  
Linda Conaughy - Adv. Art Director  
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County, \$4.99 per year Outside Suffolk County, \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year, outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

### General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submission and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

## Speak up, speak out... cont. from the cover

Until this point of time the general public has had few opportunities to express their views on this important matter. Many have told us they were unsure of how to have their voice heard. Others have been content to sit back and permit others to do their fighting for them. There are no excuses now. The door has been opened for the public to make its views known. The public hearings on the evacuation plan give the public the

chance to stand up, to speak out, to fight for the future health of their loved ones, and for their homes.

Take the time out from your busy schedule, be sure to be there. This may be the most important issue you will ever have to face, for your life, and the lives of your children, may well depend on it. It's time for you to stand up and speak out.

And why not?

## Is It Bread or Caviar?

After last week's editorial on the preposterous, proposed settlement between the County employees and the County Executive's office, we were bombarded again by calls from County workers accusing us of taking bread out of their mouths.

Ironically, most of the calls came from county workers who were not on the low end of the scale, but used as arguments people they know who were on the low end of the scale. They used these people with good reason. It's pretty hard to argue against a person making \$6,700 per year and supporting a family, moving to \$11,500. It is not very hard, however, to argue against those in the top and middle echelons who will receive large increases in their salaries.

A few examples of the injustices in the settlement at the top end are in the County Attorney's office where part-time employees who can, and in many instances do, have outside practices, will get whopping big increases. They are as follows:

A Grade 31, Step 6 part-time employee who now makes \$30,264, will soar to \$52,156 by the end of 1985, a bi-weekly increase of \$842, representing a 72.3 per cent raise. By the way, this particular person was an elected official who lost his bid for election in another race. Another former elected official who lost is a Grade 32, Step 8, who is now making \$34,536 annually. His salary would be increased to \$54,970 annually under the terms of the proposed settlement. That's a bi-weekly increase of \$772, a 59.2 per cent increase in salary.

The list goes on and on, the same from the bottom to the top. No one begrudges any government employee

a fair, livable wage for the work performed, or an increase that is just, reasonable and fair to all concerned. But this proposed settlement is not fair to those who will have to pick up the tab and pay for it, the taxpayers. The millions of dollars that will have to be raised through real estate and sales taxes to fund this proposal are staggering, far more than the residents of this county should be expected to pay. And when the term of the contract is over, negotiations will begin anew and the county employees covered by this proposal will expect more of the same.

On top of these proposed wages is a benefit package that costs us, the taxpayers, an average of 63.9 per cent more. Thus, an employee who makes \$10 per hour in wages costs, in reality, \$16.39 per hour in taxes. This is where the real problem in public employment really is, and that which drives the cost upward.

Past administrations felt it was easier to give away fringe benefits than to offer legitimate salary increases. If the union and management had negotiated this contract on the basis of give and take, county employees could have received substantial increases without breaking the taxpayers' backs. For example: county employees work a 35 hour work week. If they were employed at the same hourly wage they currently make, but worked 40 hours a week instead, they would receive an automatic 14 per cent increase in their gross salary. This 14 percent increase could be funded out of the increased productivity the increase in hours would

have meant to the county. The increase in productivity would help reduce the number of employees needed to conduct county affairs. The reduction of employees could be accomplished through normal attrition of 10 to 20 per cent per year, and no employee would have had to be laid off.

All employees receive four personal days a year. This originally was intended to cover days of absence necessitated by needs of the employee that could not be handled during other than working hours. Because of the lack of discipline by the county, these personal days, according to the Labor Commissioner, are now being considered days the employees can use for any reason they so deem fit. Sick time is totally abused. There is no proven verification needed. Too many employees consider these days their due and use them for vacation or any other reason, even though they are not ill. All they need to be is sick of working. If some of these days, along with some of the 13 paid holidays, were given back in exchange for cash increases in salary, county employees could have enjoyed substantial increases in their wages without breaking the backs of the taxpayers.

There are a number of other areas in which givebacks could have been converted to cash to fund raises. Those making over \$25,000 per year currently should have been treated differently than those who are at the lower end of the scale. As it stands now, the contract is an impossible situation. It is too rich for the taxpayers of this county to even consider funding out of taxes. Its spin off is already causing municipal workers in Suffolk's towns and villages to demand parity. School teachers and other educational workers will have a right to demand equal increases in their compensation, for if the taxpayers can afford to increase county

worker's salaries, to this degree, they should also be able to afford like increases for the needs of others.

The tragic part of this whole situation is that the bargaining was unrealistic. A stalemate had been reached, both sides had submitted their last, best offer to factfinding and the factfinders report was finished and due for release.

The factfinders report would have gone to the Legislature. We cannot imagine in our wildest expectations it would have been anywhere near as devastating as the County Executive's proposal is. The Legislature could have accepted the factfinders report or, if they found it unworkable by the taxpayers, would have sent it back for further modification.

The only alternative now is for the Legislature to reject this proposed contract. They then will be served with the factfinders report and be able to make a decision based upon this report, which is supposed to be an outside, objective viewpoint.

The Legislature cannot act positively on the County Executive's proposal. The people of Suffolk County simply cannot afford it, particularly the huge increases that have been granted under the provisions of this proposal to those in the top echelon.

We again encourage you to contact your legislator. Let them know your feelings. You can be sure these Legislators are hearing, in mass, from the 7000 C.S.E.A. workers who want this contract passed at all cost. Only if the taxpayers' voice is stronger, louder, and more meaningful, will a just solution be found.

For your convenience, we are publishing a list of the County Legislators and the phone numbers they can be reached at.

And why not?

## SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

District	Legislator	Telephone	District	Legislator	Telephone
1	Gregory J. Blass, Esq. 11 W. Second Street Riverhead, N.Y. 11901	727-7200	13	Alice Beck 101 N. Wellwood Avenue Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757	226-1340
2	John Rosso, Sr. 1154D Montauk Highway Mastic, N.Y. 11950	399-0500	14	Louis Howard, Presiding Officer 86 Broadway Amityville, N.Y. 11701	264-2200
3	John J. Foley 31 Oak Street Patchogue, N.Y. 11772	475-5800	15	Wayne Prospect 2100 Deer Park Avenue Deer Park, N.Y. 11729	242-1777
4	Rose Caracappa Coram, Selden Office Building 248-260 Middle Country Road Selden, N.Y. 11784 Bldg. 1 - Suite 3	732-2000	16	Robert La Bua 333 Larkfield Road East Northport, N.Y. 11731	368-5100
5	Ferdinand Giese 149 Main Street Setauket, N.Y. 11785	689-8500	17	Jane R. Devine 256 Main Street Huntington, N.Y. 11743	673-9393
6	Donald Allgrove 180 E. Main Street Smithtown, N.Y. 11787	724-4888	18	Vacant	
7	Michael D'Andre 211 E. Main Street Smithtown, N.Y. 11787	724-5705	Addresses of the Legislature: Suffolk County Legislature Legislature Building Veterans Memorial Highway Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788		360-4070
8	Deputy P.O. John C. Wehrenberg 4250 Veterans Memorial Highway Holbrook, N.Y. 11741	588-3959 360-4012	Suffolk County Legislature Suffolk County Center County Center Riverhead, N.Y. 11901		548-3300
9	Joseph Rizzo 135 W. Main Street East Islip, N.Y. 11730	581-3621	Clerk of the Legislature William H. Rogers		Hauppauge 360-4073 Riverhead 548-3303
10	Philip Nolan 2000 Brentwood Road Brentwood, N.Y. 11717	231-3300	Chief Deputy Clerk Juliette A. Kinsella		Hauppauge 360-4074
11	Ira Hariton, Esq. 4 Udall Road West Islip, N.Y. 11795	661-1800	Deputy Clerk Joyce F. Rosko		Riverhead 548-3301
12	Vacant				

## SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

and Suffolk County Life

VOL. 22 NO. 21

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000  
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 19 market zone editions every Wednesday  
North Fork Patchogue Centereach Rocky Point  
Riverhead Medford Selden Port Jefferson  
Hampton East Holbrook, Hottelville Coram Three Village  
Mid Hampton Sayville Mastic, Shirley  
Westhampton Oakdale  
Moriches Ronkonkoma



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of  
194,000 Circulation Weekly  
Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton,  
Town of Islip, Suffolk County, County of Suffolk, Rocky Point  
School District, Patchogue School District, Suffolk  
County Life Publishers, twenty each Wednesday, is an Official  
Newspaper of: Town of Westhampton, Town of Riverhead, Town of  
Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher  
John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor  
Martin J. Cann - Director of Sales  
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director  
Angela Gingo - Co-op Coordinator  
Claire Swanik - National Sales Director  
Ted Conlon - Retail Sales Manager

Peter Parpan - Production Manager  
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director  
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$4.99 per year Outside Suffolk County: \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

### General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason. ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

## Real Estate Taxes Will Jump

Last Wednesday, we spent two and a half hours going over the proposed county contract for the C.S.E.A. workers with their President, Charles Nova, and Secretary, Shirley Germain. While they disagreed with interpretation of the terminology we used in previous editorials, which was from the actual language in the memo of understanding between the union and the county, they could find no fault with the facts we presented.

They did point out the members of the county attorney's office are not a part of their bargaining unit, and thus do not automatically get the raises included in the agreement. They did agree, however, that traditionally and historically, workers not covered by their bargaining unit receive, by legislative approval, that which is gained by the C.S.E.A. employees.

The two union officials insist the percentage of increase is actually seven per cent for the 1982 and 1983 years, and eight and eight for the years 1984 and 1985. The memo of agreement stipulates a seven per cent one time payment for 1982, 14 per cent for 1983, and eight and eight for 1984 and 1985. The union officials claim that the "bonus" for 1982 saves the county money because it is not factored in the annual salary and thus not compounded when figuring the 1983 salary increase.

The most incredible statement to come out of this meeting was that the union officials claimed that at no time had the county negotiators said the county taxpayers could not afford the proposed settlement. We showed Novo the anticipated increases in county revenue projected over the life of the contract. The county projects that the basis of taxation, the assessed valuation of land, will only increase 4 per cent per year during the next three years. Currently the county tax base is \$24.7 billion. In 1985, the last year of the contract, it is projected to grow to \$26.7 billion. Another area of county revenue is sales tax income. Over the past few years, sales tax revenues have grown at the rate of 7 to 10 per cent per year. This was during a period of rapid inflation. During the past year, inflation was down to 3 1/2 per cent, and based on this sales taxes will probably not increase more than 2 to 3 per cent.

The cost of the proposed settlement for the C.S.E.A. contract by the end of 1985 will be between \$51 and \$58 million per year, depending upon whose statistics you are reading. In addition to this, fringe benefits must be added, but we are not including them here because we have not been given their actual cost. The effect the C.S.E.A. contract will have on county real estate taxes is projected to be an additional \$1.91 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, based on the projected increase in the tax base mentioned earlier.

When the increase in taxes for the C.S.E.A. contract is factored in with the increase in cost for the police and sheriff deputies, it is projected the county tax rate will have to be increased by \$2.73 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. This would raise the current tax rate of \$3.36 to \$6.09 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. County real estate taxes would, then, have to be raised 81.3 per cent to fund the terms of these settlements.

Even if we factor in the total increase in sales tax revenues at the previous growth rate of 7 1/2 per cent, and apply them solely toward the funding of the labor contracts, real estate taxes will have to be increased by over \$1.60 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. This, of course, means that every penny of these increased taxes will have to be spent on labor, leaving nothing to cover the increased cost of materials and outside services which will also be affected by inflation.

When we went over these figures with the union officials, they were as surprised at the ramifications as you should also be. They noted they had received "other figures at 3 a.m. one morning," but could not substantiate the accuracy of their "other figures." We suggested to these officials the taxpayers of this county could not afford this contract and that the end result might be the Legislature and the county executive will be forced to cut the work force of the county, just as Mayor Koch has been forced to do because of the unusual labor contracts he negotiated when he was running for governor.

We also asked the labor officials to consider the obvious demands for parity that will surely come, and the demands for salary increases by municipal workers in towns and

villages that will be based on the county settlement. And, of the demands that will be voiced by teachers and employees in the educational field who are funded by the same taxpayers. They surely will want equal treatment and equal increases. After all, teachers will be able to argue that if the taxpayers can afford to increase county workers' salaries, by up to 70 per cent, including some who are making in excess of \$30,000 a year, the taxpayers should be able to afford like increases for them.

The union officials relentlessly charged Suffolk Life is picking on the C.S.E.A. workers. They seem to have forgotten we opposed the raises the county executive and the Legislature voted for themselves, and have been in the forefront of bringing to the public the facts of most municipal labor negotiations.

For the record, Suffolk Life respects the workers of this county. We are in favor of them receiving a fair and just contract. We are, though, at the same time realistic enough to know that there is a day beyond tomorrow when the taxpayers are going to have to fund these increases. There is no Santa Claus, only taxpayers to fund increases for government.

If the union and the county had settled on a contract that would cost the taxpayer between 20 to 30 per cent, within the bounds of inflation and the ability of the taxpayers to fund, we would not have become involved. Unfortunately, this contract

is far beyond what is fair and just for the taxpayers, or their ability to shoulder its financial burden. The average percentage of increase for the average county worker is staggering, far more than the average taxpayer can expect his own salary to increase. Add to that the additional costs of one of the most lucrative benefit packages around, and the financial impact of the other labor contracts with police and deputies, and the taxpayers will be pushed into financial disaster.

The real estate taxes in this county are already among the highest in the nation. At the same time these additional taxes will come due, the residents of this county will be hit with an increase of utility rates between 30 and 70 per cent to fund LILCO's nuclear plant at Shoreham. Consider also the proposed tax increases debated on the federal and state levels. The taxpayers of this county cannot afford this burden.

We suggest the county Legislature must consider the very real facts that a combination of a huge real estate tax increase, and increases in LILCO's rates will be more than most people can absorb, and will cause economic chaos to the county's 1,300,000 resident.

The decision is now up to the county Legislature. If you feel you cannot afford the financial disaster that lies ahead, we suggest you contact your legislator, or attend the legislative meeting on January 25 to voice your concern.

And why not?

## Are Clams The Culprit?

We have been disturbed by the reports of the number of intestinal disorders being reported, attributed, allegedly, to the eating of shellfish. According to State officials, tainted clams from both out-of-state and Long Island waters have caused these stomach disorders. But we seriously wonder how much truth there is to that claim.

Has anyone taken into consideration the bug that has been running around since early December? It has caused numerous people to have lower intestinal pains, severe vomiting and diarrhea. We personally know of a number of

people who have been affected, people who have not eaten clams recently and others who would never do so.

How many of those affected by this bug are wrongfully being cited as the victims of tainted clams? Are the environmental and health officials sure, without a shadow of doubt, that tainted clams are causing the problem, and not the 24-hour virus bug that plagues us all from time to time?

Shouldn't they be absolutely sure before they make snap judgements and statements that can do serious harm to our clamming industry?

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "Madness, sheer madness"

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Madness, sheer madness! How can anyone allow the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant to be put into operation after reading a report such as that published by Suffolk County.

7,000 "latent cancer deaths" — a phrase that is chilling to all who live in the 20-mile area and beyond. We are referring to children who have not yet been given the opportunity to experience the wonder of life. We are talking about adults who are working and struggling to provide their families with a good life and home who would suddenly lose everything (including their lives) to an "ACCIDENT".

How sad and frightening that we live daily under the threat of extinction from a nuclear war. Now do we have to face sudden death or a horrible, lingering illness from an accident of such staggering proportions?

Residents of Long Island — sit down a

moment and picture the lovely, laughing faces of children at a school play. Remember the lush spring days glowing with green and sprinkled with the rainbow colors of flowers bursting forth to meet the sun. Think of the beautiful warm summer days with the waves softly washing against the sandy shores of the beaches. See in your mind the red and yellow leaves of fall lazily drifting down as you walk in the crisp air. Look around you now and see the Christmas lights aglow and shining in the eyes of a child and the wonder as the first of the snow flakes come drifting down.

All of this will be taken away from us if this plant is opened and allowed to proceed on its disastrous course. As long as there is the danger of an "accident", we cannot let them gamble with our lives. This really is a matter of life and death!

Mary Vaughn  
Bellport

## SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 22 NO. 22

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000

Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 19 market zone editions every Wednesday

North Fork	Patchogue	Centerach	Rocky Point
Riverhead	Medford	Selden	Port Jefferson
Hampton East	Holbrook	Holtsville	Coram
Three Village	Mid Hampton	Sayville	Mastic
Shirley	Westhampton	Oakdale	Moriches
Ronkonkoma			



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of

194,000 Circulation Weekly

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Litchfield; County of Suffolk; Rocky Point; School District; Patchogue-Medford School District; Suffolk County; Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Riverhead; Town of Ronkonkoma; Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher  
John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor  
Martin J. Cann - Director of Sales  
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director  
Arigela Gingo - Co-op Coordinator  
Claire Swanik - National Sales Director  
Ted Conlon - Retail Sales Manager

Peter Parpan - Production Manager  
Linda Conaughy - Adv. Art Director  
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$4.99 per year Outside Suffolk County: \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

### General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason. ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

# The People Spoke And It Wasn't The 'Crazies'

LILCO officials must have sat through last week's legislative evacuation hearings in dismay. According to their testimony leading up to these hearings, it was only a fringe element of "crazies" who had been making all the protests and voicing concerns about the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. They must have been shocked when they heard nurses, school teachers, firemen and policemen state, unequivocally, they felt if an accident did occur, their obligation belonged first to their families.

These people are the volunteers which the proposed evacuation plan is dependent upon. They are not members of any lunatic fringe, they are good, hard-working members of the professional force here in Suffolk County, honest people who are being realistic about their feelings and emotions and shedding all doubts as to where their priorities lie.

The thousands of other people, residents of Suffolk County, who came before the Legislature, voiced fear and concern about this potential death threat the management of LILCO has created in their backyard. The same management that Monday was highly criticized by the Public Service Commission for their lax procedures concerning their gas division. This unusual move by the staff of the Public Service Commission, which has all but been in LILCO's pocket, finally, in an act of courage, not only criticized LILCO for disregarding the safety of the citizens of Long Island, but recommended the company be fined in excess of \$5 million. Unfortunately, the P.S.C. does not have the power to recommend these fines be levied against the executives who have allowed the condition to be created, but only against the corporation itself.

This timely condemnation by the Public Service Commission gives mute testimony to the lack and the inability of the corporation to provide safe procedures for the transmission of gas. Negligence with gas will only kill a few people at a time. The same kind of attitude prevailing in a company involved in nuclear

operation could wipe out the East End forever more.

We have no reason to believe that LILCO has been any more concerned about safety in this nuclear project than it has been on safety in their gas division. We do not buy either LILCO's or their hired "professionals'" testimony that this plant is safe, or there isn't much of a probability of an accident.

Throughout the early part of last week's hearings, those involved in the nuclear industry kept using the word "improbable" when referring to the possibility of an accident at Shoreham. That's a stock statement that's heard time and again from the mouths of nuclear supporters, but Three Mile Island, and recent happenings at nuclear installations, in fact two in the past week, destroy the credibility of those words. Radioactive water leaked into the Tennessee River from the Browns Ferry facility in Alabama causing an alert to be sounded, lasting 10 hours, early last week; the leakage of the 208,000 gallons was reportedly "diluted quickly" in the river area.

And later in the week some 5,000 gallons of radioactive water, according to reports, was leaked into Long Island Sound from the Millstone Nuclear Plant in Waterford, Connecticut. But no alert or notification was given to Long Island officials, as has been the case in the past.

The point is that accidents do, indeed, happen. Some are worse than others, but none are advantageous to the health of the public.

The other problem we have with the "improbable" cry is that it presupposes that the plant is well-built. There is no guarantee that is the case with Shoreham because LILCO refuses to agree with a county request for an outside, independent inspection of the facility. Instead, LILCO contracted with the Torrey Pines Technology firm, a division of General Atomic Company, and has tried to pass that off as an outside, independent inspection of the facility. Torrey Pines inspected only one per cent of the plant's safety features, which produced problems which will

cost more than a million dollars to repair, and gave Shoreham a clean bill of health.

But! as reported in a story elsewhere in this issue, the communication between Torrey Pines and LILCO which led up to the selection of Torrey Pines for the inspection job is very revealing. Consider this statement in a letter from George L. Wessman, Torrey Pines director to Joseph Novarro, LILCO official, in which Wessman was soliciting the contract: "We are familiar with performing these types of reviews in a sensitive political environment, and we are sure that we can provide a quality and usable review result for Long Island Lighting Company." Usable! That's an interesting word. Anything less than a clean bill of health for the plant would not be very usable for LILCO. The credibility of the Torrey Pines inspection has already been under question. With this latest revelation it is, in our view, destroyed, even though LILCO officials attempt to dismiss the word usable as an "engineering" term meaning auditable.

Without assurances of safety through an outside, independent thorough inspection, the question of evacuation becomes vitally important to the future safety of Suffolk's residents. There can be no acceptance of the Shoreham plant, or permission

for start-up, without such an inspection. Any agency that would do so is arrogantly flaunting the future of our people. There is little question in our mind or in the minds of those who attended these hearings that the plant is neither safe nor, in the event of an accident, will we be able to be evacuated. The possibility of a safe evacuation is less than a probability the plant will have an accident. We fail to see how the Legislature can accept the proposed evacuation plan. No matter how expert the creators of the plan may be, they could not come up with an evacuation plan that would work on an island with three million people and only bridges and tunnels on the West End to get off.

At the early part of these hearings big brother out of the Governor's office announced that if the Suffolk Legislature did not accept the county's plan, even though it was a fantasy, they would come in and run the county. The Boston Tea Party, the American Revolution were fought over less scary reasons.

As we see it, the Legislature has no alternative other than to turn down this plan for, in fact, no plan would provide for a safe evacuation off Long Island and for this reason, Shoreham must not be allowed to open its doors and go on line.

And why not?

## Silly Remark Breeds Silly Excuse

For months it has been rumored that Suffolk County Legislator John Wehrenberg of Holbrook is slated to become a deputy commissioner of the county police department. There is now an outcry against that appointment. On the surface, that opposition is directed at a remark Wehrenberg reportedly made recently, a comment said in a conversation with two other individuals. Because he is alleged to have said "I'm a minority here too. I'm the only Nazi," minority groups, human rights spokesmen, and politicians from the other side now declare he should not be considered for the police force position.

The "Nazi" remark, which everyone concedes is silly and Wehrenberg explains as a "joking comment," is an excuse, not the real reason for the recent uproar. It is a poor excuse, at that, and deserves to be put in the same silly category as the original remark.

Wehrenberg's real crime, if one looks beneath the surface controversy, is that he gave little credence to a Suffolk County Bar Association report concerning police brutality. The minority groups, of course, did not appreciate that and anger has long simmered beneath the surface. Unfortunately, Wehrenberg's comment gave them a prime opportunity to voice opposition without dealing with their real reasons.

That's wrong. If the minorities are concerned about Wehrenberg's past or future feelings about instances of police brutality, they should face the issue squarely. Put him on the spot. Force him to fully detail his views. Pinpoint where and how his views are wrong. Deal with the facts, in an hon-

est fashion, don't try to camouflage the real reasons with smokescreen issues.

John Wehrenberg is one of the original legislators, and has compiled a long and admirable record. He has never been known to shy away from speaking his mind on any issue. He has had the courage to fight for what he believes to be right, even though those efforts might arouse public opposition, or political fodder for political foes. He has come through all of this with a clean record, without the political stigma that has swallowed up so many other politicians through the years.

He deserves better treatment than he is now getting.

Wehrenberg is also a police buff. He is no stranger to police department affairs. He has been a strong voice in raising the necessary funds to improve the efficiency and status of that department, has served as a liaison between the legislature and the police.

Having been involved as a public official representing the public's interest all these many years, he could be a strong and effective liaison between the public and the police if he is appointed to the post. His experience in legislative and county budget matters would also benefit the department.

Frankly, we think Wehrenberg would make a good deputy police commissioner, one who would be cognizant of both the department's and the public's needs. His appointment should be based on his qualifications and his long track record of service as a legislator, not on his offhanded comment.

And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 22 NO. 23

NEWSPAPERS

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000  
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 19 market zone editions every Wednesday  
North Fork Palmyra Centerach Rocky Point  
Riverhead Medford Seiden Port Jefferson  
Hampton East Holbrook Hotsville Coram Three Village  
Mid Hampton Sayville Mastic Shirley  
Westhampton Oakdale  
Moncks Ronkonkoma



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of 134,000 Circulation Weekly  
Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton, Town of Hope, Suffolk County, County of Suffolk, Rocky Point School District, Patchogue-Medford School District, Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Hope, Town of Riverhead, Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor  
Martin J. Cann - Director of Sales  
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director  
Angela Gingo - Co-op Coordinator  
Claire Swanik - National Sales Director  
Ted Conton - Retail Sales Manager

Peter Parpan - Production Manager  
Linda Conaughly - Adv. Art Director  
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County, \$4.99 per year Outside Suffolk County: \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales. 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life; In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue.

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.