

A New Year, A New Beginning

County Executive Cohalan was re-inaugurated on Saturday, December 31. It's a new year and a new beginning. A time for him to recapture his place in history.

Cohalan was elected four years ago by an unprecedented margin. Many read it as a mandate to clean up the county, eliminate corruption, remove politics from professionalism and to run the county as a business.

During Cohalan's first four years, he did set the pace for the elimination of corruption. Many of the old guard who had their fingers in the pie, some illegally, some just unethically, were out. Cohalan ended his fourth year in office with many of the old timers back in harness and during the next four years he will probably spend too much of his time keeping their fingers out of the cookie jar.

Cohalan was successful in replacing political hacks with professionals. For this he earns an "A." Hopefully, he will not go back on this promise. Cohalan did fail miserably on the biggest mandate of all, running the county in a business-like, efficient, and economical manner. The sins of the past will be the biggest problem he will have to cope with during his next four years. How he handles them will be a measure of his mettle and will determine whether he has a political future, be retired to the bench or just retired.

Suffolk County government as it is currently structured, and by contract, will be the most expensive county government for its size in the nation. As in any government, the cost of people who run the government and the numbers of them are the biggest expense. For political peace in an election year, Cohalan gave away the store in negotiations with the police, the Sheriffs, and the C.S.E.A. workers. By the estimates of his own budget officer, and those of the Legislature, the contract will leave the county short by up to \$40 million in 1985.

Now is the time to prepare for this short-fall. Cohalan and company and all department heads should be examining and preparing a list of positions that can be eliminated through attrition and layoffs in each and every department throughout the county. An initiative should be made

to labor for a possible reopening of negotiations, some give-backs provided by labor might save some of the cutbacks in staff that will be necessitated by the short-fall of funds.

One of the most visible and obnoxious benefits county employees received was the Sheriff's deputies receiving one hour overtime every day they are on the payroll, whether they are working, on vacation or sick. The union claimed they were entitled to this because when the deputies get into the county-owned Sheriff's cars at their homes and pick up the radio to say they are on their way, commuting to work, they have technically started their day even though it may be an hour before they get from their home to work.

This ripoff of the taxpayers must be eliminated. It has irked just about everybody in the county to see the deputies driving home in cars owned by the taxpayers, burning gas paid for by the taxpayers while we, the taxpayers, are driving our own cars with our own gas to and from work.

The quick and easy way out of this dilemma would be to eliminate the Sheriff's cars as commuter vehicles for the deputies. Let them drive their own cars to work, report to work at their assigned hour, and start drawing their pay when they have punched the clock. Cops don't take their cars home, nor do any other workers who might be classified emergency by the nature of their job. Why should the deputies be extended this taxpayer-paid benefit?

There are many other avenues in which Cohalan could run the county much more economically. There are a host of services being provided that are a duplication of those offered by the town and state governments.

Not only can Cohalan cut back, but so can the Legislature. Since Lou Howard has taken over as presiding officer, salaries of aides have doubled, particularly in his office. The Legislature's own budget is bloated with fat. It could be cut in half and still be as ineffective as always.

If Cohalan plans a political future past 1987, he must rebuild his image, repair his foundation, and be the manager the people hoped that he would be.

And why not?

To The Group

To those many people who contributed this Christmas we say thank you. The anonymous gifts "The Group" gave allowed children to have Christmas they never would have enjoyed. Not only toys and trinkets, but good, warm clothes, heat in homes, and food on the table were provided by your generosity.

We won't go into any individual stories but from those of us who were involved in the final disbursement we can tell you that you should have a

very warm spot in your heart, for your help meant not only happiness at Christmas but, we suspect, in some cases, survival.

From all of us who were intimately involved our sincere thanks, not only from us, but from the beneficiaries. You may be anonymous, but in the hearts of those whose lives you touched, you are very special and will be remembered in their prayers.

And why not?

Pre-Inspection Rental Law

We have long championed the concept of a pre-inspection rental law that would make it mandatory for the town and the county to conduct an inspection to insure the accommodations met minimum standards for fire, safety, and health before they can be rented.

This concept has been opposed by the Suffolk County Welfare Department. They claim that such a law would dry up some available housing that is needed by welfare recipients. Their attitude is a leaky roof is better than no roof. We say bull.

Last week we had the opportunity of being in some structures that human beings were being forced to live in. Structures that were homes, but not houses. The welfare department is paying several hundred dollars a month rent for these structures, which are not fit for human habitation. Houses spotless on the inside, but with the sole source of heat being the oven. Houses with refrigerator doors missing.

These brief encounters left us disgusted. Disgusted that we could allow a department charged with the safety, health, and welfare of less fortunate human beings to be put in such jeopardy. What the welfare department is protecting is greedy landlords who buy up homes in disrepair in poor neighborhoods, renting them to the desperate at the top of the welfare scale, then walking away from their responsibility and obligation. If the welfare people complain, the landlords evict them. Instead they are beaten into submission, to quietly freeze or live in unsanitary, unworkable houses.

This publication is known for its conservative viewpoints, not having much compassion for those who

refuse to help themselves. That is true, but that does not mean we don't have huge amounts of compassion for people who end up in circumstances beyond their control and who are in need.

One of the biggest items in the county budget is the support of the social service system. We pile millions of dollars into this department in hopes of helping the indigent. Yet, it is this department, lobbying and cajoling the Legislature, which has prevented a meaningful and workable pre-inspection law from being put on the books.

Give people a chance to move into a house where there is heat and sanitary facilities, where the appliances work, and it is clean, and most will take pride in what they have. The only way this will happen is to guarantee those houses that are being rented meet minimum specifications, and are inspected before tenants move in.

The law should also allow for the expeditious removal of tenants who misuse or violate these facilities. The welfare department, in their opposition to a pre-inspection law, is encouraging the waste of human resources and the degradation of human lives. Their actions help make rich the greedy owners of the rental units who are interested only in profit.

Let a single Legislator see first hand what welfare recipients are being forced to rent, and then vote against a pre-inspection law, and we will point to a Legislator who is benefitting personally from the system.

Make it a priority to draft and pass a meaningful pre-inspection law.

And why not?

Petition For Power

A bi-partisan petition drive in support of the construction of a 200-mile transmission line from Utica to the Westchester area, which could carry low cost hydro-electric power from Canada to Long Island, has been launched by State Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner. The petition drive's goal is to produce strong Long Island support for the endeavor in an effort to convince the Public Service Commission to approve the project. The petition drive has merit and deserves the support of all Long Island residents to protect themselves against the financial disaster which LILCO has planned for our future.

According to Hochbrueckner's reasoning, the new Marcy-South line could be in place by 1987 and could bring 2,000 million watts (MW) of low cost electrical power to the Long Island area, which is facing future rate increases that will surely go over the 100 per cent mark. John Dyson, head of the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY), has, according to Hochbrueckner, committed 40 per cent of the 2,000 MW capacity for use on Long Island, an amount that would be equivalent to the output of LILCO's Shoreham nuclear plant.

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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.

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Letters to the editor

"Teachers aren't always right"

Dear Sir:

I would like to take the opportunity to express my concern and the concern of all parents: teachers. Last year was my first experience with the Patchogue-Medford School District. Before then, my child went to a private school. My son was always an A-B student until his second year, which was in the Patchogue-Medford School District. There he became a C-D student. It was not the entire school district, but his teacher.

He complained to me of embarrassing situations his teacher created for him in class which also created severe peer pressure for him. I thought his accusations were overreacted because of his adjustment to a new school, until I had an incident with his teacher that embarrassed me.

The point I am trying to make is for parents to listen to their children and confront their teachers. If their child's grades suddenly drop, it is probably the method in which he is being taught. My son's teacher was very negative, and I saw that in conferences with her. My son always received 90s and 100s on spelling tests, yet she graded him "C." He was rated by school psychologists as a 5th-grade math student, and yet she graded him "C-minus." His work was never good enough for her, and this led my son to lack of self-esteem. He just didn't want to try anymore

because it didn't matter. I'm just sorry I didn't listen to him sooner.

I went through so many testings with my son because I thought there might be something mentally wrong, only to find that he was an exceptionally bright child and his teacher couldn't teach on HIS level.

This year he's in third grade and he is an A-B student again. He loves school and his teacher and it shows in his work, attitude, and grades. His teacher this year is very positive and builds self-esteem, and this is just what my child needs.

I'm sure we all don't understand everyone we meet and there are some people we just don't like or get along with. Well, the same with children. My son and his teacher didn't like each other last year, and he and his grades suffered for it. Don't let your child go through what my child did. I learned to listen to him and believe him. Teachers aren't always right, and if your child doesn't like his teacher or her ways of teaching, have him placed with another teacher. Parents should learn about all the teachers and their child should be placed with those he needs to teach on his level.

A child shouldn't have to suffer because the teacher isn't always right!

Angry Mother

"There is no replacement of a life"

Dear Sirs:

Re: Nov. 30, 1983 edition of Suffolk Life: "Anger Replaces Shock."

What are these people complaining about? Was everything about the Gruccis' fireworks factory so hush-hush that the complainers had no idea they were there when they built, bought, or rented their houses on the doorstep of a potentially hazardous enterprise? Did these same people lose a child? Mate? Parent? NO! Only monetary possessions that with life, work, and in some cases, insurance, can be replaced; but dead is dead, and there is no replacement of a life! These complainers should get down on their knees and

thank God they lived to tell their stories.

No one "told" them to live on the Gruccis' doorstep. Why in the world do they think the factory was originally built on and in a large, unpopulated area? They (the Gruccis) knew of the potential hazards. Why were these people so blind as to move there in the first place? Do they think that Felix and Clara Grucci wanted this devastation to occur with their beloved son Jimmy and cousin Donna there?

These Bellport residents remind me of the crybabies who built their homes on the dunes of the Hamptons. When the storms came and the ocean washed their houses over the sides,

Grand Prize winner announced

GRAND PRIZE WINNER - Bill Saputo Sr., of Oakdale Drive in Wading

River started the New Year off on a very happy note with the news that he was

the grand prize winner in the Annual Suffolk Life Shopping Spree. "Oh my God," was the way his wife greeted the news that her husband, a bayman who was not home at the time, had won \$3,500. Saputo's lucky coupon was selected by Riverhead Supervisor Joseph Janoski while Suffolk Life Retail Advertising Director Ted Conlon, right, and a stand-in for Santa watched. Mrs. Saputo said the winner had dropped coupons in the buckets at two local stores, Sears Surplus in Rocky Point and Swezey's in Riverhead. One of those two stores - it is not known which - helped make this a happy beginning to a New Year for the Saputo family. Photo by Bob Chartuk



they yelled "Federal Disaster Area!" Were they, too, so blind as not to see the dangers? That happens to be the chance they all took.

Everyone squawks about Shoreham, and so they should since LILCO built in an existing populated area, BUT, it is there, and it will open sooner or later, like it or not, and no one will be able to stop it. On the other hand, the Gruccis were there FIRST, and should be

allowed to rebuild on their original lots. If the residents don't like it, let THEM move - maybe to Shoreham or the Hampton dunes this way they can close their eyes again to any potential danger! That outcome should prove quite interesting!

Sincerely,
Virginia Felice
Patchogue

"No one complained"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

For years the people who lived around the Gruccis' fireworks plant knew the Gruccis were there and what their business was. Yet they purchased or rented homes there! No one twisted their arms or forced them to move into the community and live there. The Gruccis have been there since 1929!

No one complained about the thousands and thousands of dollars the Gruccis paid in property taxes. No one complained about the hundreds of part-time and full-time jobs the Gruccis provided. No one complained about all the community activities the Gruccis participated in and supported. No one complained about all the money the Grucci business pumped into the local community. No one complained when the Grucci family became famous and put Bellport on the map. When the Gruccis appeared on national television and in the newspapers, pride welled in the chests of local residents and they said, "I know the Gruccis, they're my neighbors!" No one complained when the Gruccis put on breathtakingly beautiful

fireworks displays and thrilled hundreds of thousands of people.

Now there has been a tragic accident and part of the community has turned against the Gruccis. Yes, there has been some property damage and minor injuries to the local residents, but no one was seriously injured and insurance will cover any property damage. Nothing can replace Jim Grucci and Donna Gruber. The Gruccis have suffered a tremendous loss.

I thank God for good people like Felix Grucci and his family. Hard-working, dedicated people like the Gruccis have made America great.

The Gruccis have been good friends and neighbors in this community since 1929. I think the community, the town, the state, and the federal government should do everything in their power to help restore the Grucci family and get them back in business.

And why not!
Gordon A. Waincock
President
East Patchogue Auto Body

Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Petition For Power...

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Hochbrueckner's proposal deserves support for two reasons: first, Long Island needs, desperately, another source of power other than LILCO to serve its needs. LILCO has already proven itself a threat to Long Island's fiscal future, and must be replaced by an optional source of generating capacity.

And secondly, the availability of an equivalent amount of power could spare the Long Island area from the financial and safety threat posed by the operation of the Shoreham fiasco.

While Dyson's promise to make 800 MW of hydro power available to Long Island is encouraging, however, we need more assurances that power would be earmarked for public use before we can become too enthusiastic about that vow. Dyson has continually promised industry a share of PASNY power, but has said precious little about the public which faces the same financial threat.

Suffolk Life's Power for the People suit against PASNY, seeking a fair share of power for the public, is still pending. It is currently awaiting a

judicial decision in the beginning of the legal process. Since the time that suit was first initiated, there have been hints that low cost power may come the people's way, and Dyson's commitment is another hint that officials are beginning to see the light. A definite commitment by Dyson that the people would get their fair share of the low cost power would go a long way toward making the days of the new year a lot brighter for all.

We urge all our readers to clip the coupon that appears on this page and send it to Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner at his District Office, Hub Office Building, Route 112, Box T, Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. 11776. That little bit of effort, and the small cost of postage, could be the best investment you have ever made. A strong enough response will prove we here on Long Island are willing to take whatever action is needed to insure low cost power for the future.

Please! Take the time to send the coupon today, to insure a financially sound tomorrow.

And why not?

YES! I support the construction of the Marcy-South transmission line if the power it can bring to Long Island will be fairly distributed to all L.I. residents.

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ Zip _____

Now Is The Time For Prudence

The nation's economy, and that of the state, is beginning to come back to normal. Some describe it as robust, we are not that optimistic but we do say that it is a solid recovery that should take some of the pressure off not only businesses, but individuals and government.

With the economy improving, the state coffers will be filled with additional dollars from increased sales and incomes, both corporate and individual. During the sixties, our economy boiled also. Thousands of new dollars floated into the state coffers. But this was not enough to satisfy the late Governor Rockefeller's quest to spend other people's money. He went on a reckless spending binge, funded by economic growth, increased taxes and major new forms of taxes. This stripping of disposable income created an economic disaster for New York State, one that still has not been turned around.

When Governor Carey first came into office, he recognized the problems and the crisis that would develop during his administration. He enacted an aggressive program to reduce state expenditures and state taxes to help stem the flow of productive businesses and jobs leaving the State of New York. He slowed it, but did not stop it.

During his eight years as governor, 900,000 jobs were lost from New York State. During the late 70's, it was popular to think that these jobs were lost to the Sun Belt. Closer examination revealed that 90 per cent of the jobs moved just outside the state's borders to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Con-

necticut. These states were the beneficiaries. The answer was simple, the taxes were substantially lower, the regulations less stringent, the power costs more economical. Yet, they still were within the driving distance of metropolitan New York. Business could be done in a better environment, more profitably. This is where the companies went. This is where the jobs went and this is where the income went. Taxes are based on funds needed to finance New York State's government of grandeur.

Mario Cuomo has shown himself to be a man of the people. We believe he is genuinely concerned about the plight of the citizens, but in his zeal to solve all the social needs he may give up the one thing they need most, a viable economy that produces jobs. His State of the State Address indicated he intends to pursue a massive insurgence of state government rather than a reduction of government, a less restrictive tax program that would encourage businesses to stay and produce jobs for the people.

Governor Cuomo would be wise to remember the old sage advice, give a man a fish and you will feed him for one day. Give a man a line and a hook and you will feed him for a lifetime. Costly massive social programs can only be funded through tax revenues raised from a robust economy. Tax too much and you will drive businesses out of the state, leaving less jobs for those who remain.

Cuomo must temper his desires for the future with a realization of the mistakes of our past.

And why not?

Quirks of Government

Two interesting circumstances have cropped up in the early days of this new year which bear watching as time passes. One, in East Hampton, involves the effort of a new Democratic majority on the town board which is designed, pure and simple, to negate the voting powers of their Republican counterparts in matters related to zoning. The other involves the possible charge of conflict of interest on the part of a public official in Brookhaven Town.

In East Hampton, the Democratic majority has scheduled a public hearing on a proposed new town law which would change the required board vote on zoning ordinance revisions and zone changes from 4 to 1, as is required by state law, to 3 to 2. If approved by the board, the measure would effectively eliminate the value of votes by two sitting Republicans and give the three Democrats all the power they need to change the zoning ordinance any way they may wish.

The Democrats admit their purpose is to prevent the two Republican

board members from being able to stall proposed revisions, and insist they need this new power to be able to keep their campaign promises. While any effort to keep a campaign promise is commendable, making changes in town law to gain control is, in our view, not.

There are two sides to every issue. For the Democrats to push their own philosophies at the expense of the voting rights of others is to ignore the very real possibility that any other point of view has some merit.

Pressure by the public to insure governmental action that is in the best interests of the people of the town is a far better way to guide the town's future actions. The residents of East Hampton would do well to watch this matter very carefully. The changing of laws to consolidate power in any group or political philosophy could establish a dangerous precedent that smacks more of dictatorship than of government by, of and for the people.

In Brookhaven Town, proposed revisions in the town's towing ordinance raised the cry of conflict of

interest last April because one town board member, Councilman Anthony Losquadro, makes his livelihood from an industry that, some charge, would benefit from the changes in the towing law. Losquadro is an owner of an auto body shop which is involved in towing from accident scenes and in the repair of wrecked vehicles. The proposed revisions include restrictions on the owners of public garages (gasoline stations) and independent towers, both for towing and on auto depots where wrecked cars are stored.

A recent public hearing on the revisions was cancelled the night of the hearing, with more than 100 people on hand to speak on the matter, because, according to town officials, additional changes had been requested by town officials. The word now is that the revisions will be

LILCO's Paper Chase

L.E.R.O. is the name of the Long Island Lighting Company's emergency evacuation plan. This paper plan obviously is not being developed to be implemented, nor is it being developed to save lives or to protect people from harmful radiation when an accident occurs. It is, very apparently, being developed only to satisfy the minimum requirements of the N.R.C. and F.E.M.A.

It's a charade! It's a fraud! When LILCO first announced this plan, its officials told the N.R.C. and F.E.M.A. that they had the perfect plan. It was implementable, it was workable. It was capable of removing everyone from a ten mile radius surrounding Shoreham without harm.

During the Shoreham Commission hearings, LILCO stepped on its tongue. They were caught in blatant lies. They had said they had everyone in line for removing the patients at hospitals and nursing homes within the ten mile radius. They had the forces lined up to do it. Testimony presented at the Commission hearings clearly demonstrated that LILCO was not telling the truth. Suffolk County Health Commissioner, Dr. David Harris testified that his department had surveyed the hospitals involved, both those that would be sending and those that would be receiving patients and learned the administrators of these hospitals had not been contacted, or were totally unaware of LILCO's plans. The spokesman of an ambulance service that would be required to move the patients testified that he had been approached by a public relations aide

examined again, and a new public hearing will be scheduled at some time in the future.

We think more is needed. The town should request that its Board of Ethics, which has rarely been utilized, should explore the matter in order to clear the air. Should a town board member whose business would benefit from changes in current law be involved in formulating those revisions? To what extent has this happened in this case?

Government today faces enough problems in the area of credibility, and will continue to face even more unless it acts to rid itself of any action that breeds conflict of interest charges. Brookhaven Town officials must act now to clear the air, or live under a cloud of suspicion on all its actions.

And why not?

of LILCO and asked to sign a blank contract and alledged that a real emergency was so unlikely they would not really be expected to perform. LILCO's management was red-faced. They had been caught with the proverbial pants down. They then said their plan was merely a plan for a plan. What Tommy rot!

Moving medical patients and those in nursing homes is an insurmountable problem, so now LILCO officials suggest the way to overcome this problem is to leave the patients in the hospitals and nursing homes to bake in the radiation released from a major accident at Shoreham. They arrogantly suggest the hospitals have the capability of sheltering their patient load. Only a damn fool would have the audacity to make this kind of statement. One look at today's modern hospitals show even those who are half-blind they are glass palaces and, in almost every case, every room has windows. We all know radiation penetrates through glass. It's hardly a lead shield and not what you would call a bomb shelter type of construction.

This testimony has been presented by LILCO's management to the N.R.C. and F.E.M.A. The N.R.C. will probably buy it as they have just about every argument that LILCO has presented. Why should they do the job they are charged with? The Congressman, Bill Carney, from this district has never raised his voice questioning their ability or their logic. He considers LILCO too sacred to oppose. He considers the N.R.C. too sanctimonious to make a mistake.

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letters to the editor

"I would like to express...thanks"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Catherine Simich who worked with me on the (C.U.R.B.S.) Committee Citizen Urging Road and Bridge Safety and all the concerned citizens who signed the petition; Assemblyman Joseph Sawicki who showed a great amount of interest in this problem; Mattituck, Jamesport and Southold Fire Departments; Sylvia Patrick of the Southold Chamber of Commerce; all the newspapers that covered the story; New York State Department of Transportation; LILCO for their service in supplying power; William Pell, Southold Town Supervisor; Ray Dean, Commissioner of Public Works, and Southold

Town for installing the street lights requested by the petition.

All required signs were installed on June 22, 1983 by DOT; caution lights were installed on July 12, 1983 by DOT and power was supplied by LILCO on July 13, 1982; street lights were installed by the town of July 20, 1983 and power was supplied by LILCO on the same day. The bridge is to be raised sometime in late fall by New York State DOT.

One has to feel some satisfaction in working with the unbeatable team mentioned above in hoping to improve safety and reduce accidents in this area. Once again, thank you.

Frank Carlin
Mattituck

"Layoffs are the norm"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am sending my check for \$10, too. What people don't realize, besides the cost of attempting to fight LILCO on the Shoreham project, is the raise in rates to offset the increase of wages the company granted their employees. In other industries, when there is lack of work for the work force, layoffs are the norm. Not so with LILCO. With the lack of construction, new homes are not being built as they were in years past.

Carpenters, electricians, bricklayers, have had to seek employment in other fields. LILCO shifted their employees to other departments, overloading their payroll with useless people. With lack of work for their already swollen workforce, they are still hiring. Parents who have years with the company are getting their kids in subsidiaries of the LILCO system. These crews do the trimming of trees, branches that interfere with power lines. They are issued

daily work orders, areas designated each day, tree trimmers and electric power crews.

If people will only look around their neighborhoods, shopping centers, particularly behind the centers, work crews belonging to LILCO, telephone company, Suffolk Water Authority, County Highway Department, your local highway department will all be killing time several times a day, somewhere. You the taxpayer are paying for the services of these so-called hardworking people. When you visit your local town hall, observe those employed to serve your town. Are they really hard at work, or are they laughing, telling each other jokes, getting coffee from the machine, visiting each other's desks? Visit your local welfare office; observe these hardworking social workers. They too observe the same rituals: long sojourns to the restrooms. Your hard-earned salaries support these people, the people's servants.

Withhold my name, please.

"A million other stories like mine"

An open letter to Mr. Edwin Meese III

I have never become as angry as I did at any remarks made by any politicians as yours regarding hungry Americans. Especially a remark coming from a person whose picture I see in the newspapers with a triple chin. You sir, don't look like you have ever been hungry in your life.

Have you, Mr. Meese, ever had to skip a meal to make sure your small child has enough to eat? Have you ever had to eat dry cereal for breakfast to stretch your milk which has been watered down to last longer? Have you ever had to eat jelly sandwiches everyday for lunch because that is all you can afford? Or make a dozen eggs and a small bag of potatoes stretch for six meals so you can have some meat on the seventh?

I had always worked hard and long before my situation became as such. When

I found it necessary to apply for public assistance because the income I had at the time just wouldn't stretch far enough to buy food and milk, we were given very little because my income was just a little too high above the poverty level. A scale that was created by overpaid, overfed politicians. There are probably a million other stories like mine and I was probably better off than most.

I am sure there are people who take advantage of the 'free food' and government aid to the poor, but the government has only itself to blame for allowing these people to do so. There is something very wrong when a person pays taxes all their life and if at one point in their life they ask for help and can't get it. We didn't starve, but we were hungry.

Sincerely,
A very angry American Mother

"Most serious health hazard"

Dear Editor:

I have just returned from studying health problems and health care in Nicaragua, with evidence that the majority of the people support their government, that it is trying hard to provide good health care, and that U.S. action against Nicaragua are the most

serious health hazard in that country today. My purpose in writing is not to lecture at your readers but to request that I be invited to discuss this issue with individuals or groups.

Thanks,
Kenneth B. Cairns, M.D.
Southampton

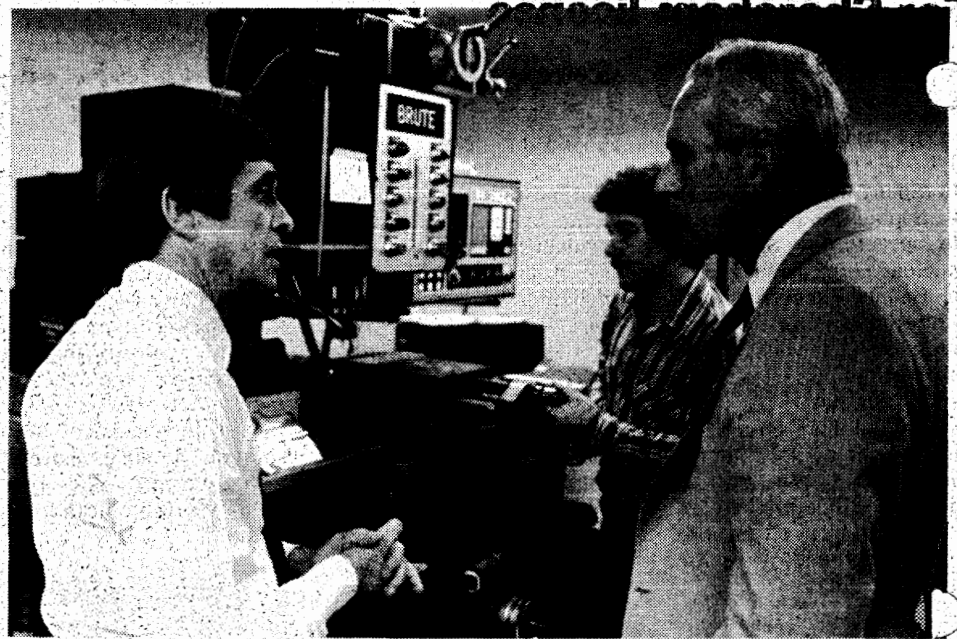
"R.S.V.P.'s annual doll program"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

We wish to thank Suffolk Life for your coverage of R.S.V.P.'s annual Christmas Doll Program in the December 14th issue, "Dolls into gems." We would like your readers to know that right after Christmas we begin looking for newly discarded dolls for next year's program. All the materials recycled by our volunteers are donated — the dolls, yarn for knitted and crocheted laprobes for the elderly, material for wheelchair and

walker bags, scrap wood for toys and therapy aids. We are currently very much in need of yarn and will be grateful for all donations. Our Riverhead R.S.V.P. center is at 126 West Main Street, open 9 to 2 Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 369-2780. We will be glad to pick up donations. Thanks again.

Joan Robbins, Coordinator
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Riverhead



SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE has acquired state-of-the art instructional equipment for its technology programs through a VEA grant. Students will receive training in robotics and in computer-assisted machining. In photo, Professor Bill Easparro (L.) and President of the College Robert T. Kreiling discuss computer-assisted machining techniques. In background, technical assistant Joseph Pontieri monitors equipment. (N-1)

"The question was asked 'Who cares?'"

To the Editor:

The question was asked "Who cares?" to what is happening with reference to what the Committee of Concerned Citizens of North Haven was doing.

I wish to bring to the attention of the residents of North Haven the following facts:

1. The disincorporation of North Haven has received excellent and complete coverage from all subscription and free newspapers in the Southampton area.

2. The committee is gaining and continuously obtaining signatures on its petition for disincorporation.

3. The reason we have not heard from non-concerned citizens may be there are so few of them they don't want to be known.

4. I have talked to a considerable number of residents and have found all in favor of disincorporation. Everyone I have asked to sign the petition has done so.

5. I have found in talking to the residents of North Haven they "care."

6. In my discussions with North Haven residents they have expressed dissatisfaction with the present Village administration.

Donald L. Greaves Jr.
Sag Harbor

"This is a critical time for Greenport"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

As a new resident of Greenport I was particularly interested in the article "Greenport's Problem: Waterfront vs. Parking", in your December 7 edition.

On this issue, one sincerely hopes that the village trustees and the other powers that be will have enough foresight to open-up the waterfront as much as possible and exploit with vision and taste, Greenport's most attractive feature, that it is on the bay. The one way to destroy it is to make a parking lot there. There is nothing unique about parking lots but the waterfront could be unique and a tourist attraction if it is developed in the right way with plenty of promenade space, shops, boutiques and restaurants. I feel that the planning board and the town fathers have an obligation and a responsibility to the residents and to their own children to ensure that they are left a village they can be proud

of. One could hardly say that about present-day Greenport.

Adequate parking should be provided, of course, but not in the heart of Greenport. It should be two or three blocks "out of town." If Greenport is made so attractive, walking a few blocks will not deter people from visiting it. The developers of the waterfront should provide funds for parking several blocks from the waterfront. This would do two things: it would save half the waterfront from having to be devoted (indeed wasted) to parking space and it would eliminate the downtown traffic congestion.

This is a critical time for Greenport and its future so let's hope that the right decisions are made because if they are, the benefits to the community are enormous.

Sincerely,
Kevin Imbusch
Greenport

"Electricity will be only for the rich"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Publish the names of all LILCO's management and parts suppliers so we'll know who to sue.

Electricity will be only for the rich and welfare people. All others will have to leave

Long Island.

The Aztec and Inca people just walked away from their societies. This will happen again on Long Island within 4-5 years.

Moving As Soon As Possible

Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Cont. from page 3

Long Island residents have little hope for honesty or integrity with LILCO calling the shots, the N.R.C. doing their bidding and the worse congressman Suffolk County has ever had remaining silent, a dereliction of his duty. Our only hope is that Governor Cuomo puts the full force of the State of New York behind the needs of the people of Suffolk County

and aggressively demands, suing if necessary, the N.R.C. for non-performance of duty.

Barring success in this court of ill-repute, Cuomo must use the laws pertaining to the Public Service Commission to protect the people of Suffolk County.

And why not?

Does LILCO's Management Advocate Lawlessness?

One of our favorite attorneys has a motto, "Litigation is the only alternative to revolution."

The people of Suffolk County are sick and frustrated at the arrogance of LILCO's management. They have been lied to, conned, abused and just plain frightened to death by management's arrogant insistence that they are going to put on line what most people conceive is an unsafe, unworkable nuclear power plant. A power plant that has a negative economic value that will make an economic wasteland out of Long Island, ruining the hopes and dreams of the Long Island citizenry.

LILCO management hit its arrogant height last week when the Board of Directors arbitrarily decided to withhold real estate taxes due on the Shoreham plant, taxes that have been collected through exorbitant rates we have paid to LILCO. Taxes collected by a utility are nothing more than a pass through tax with the utility being the tax collector rather than a municipality. LILCO now is denying that they collected taxes on Shoreham and maintaining they are corporate funds paid in anticipation of being collected when, and if, the plant goes on line.

Governor Cuomo's Shoreham Commission agonized long and hard over the ramifications of the loss of these taxes to the Shoreham - Wading River School district, the Town of Brookhaven and the County of Suffolk. The Commission finally concluded that the state could develop a system phasing in the loss of these taxes to temper the rate shock to the Shoreham - Wading River school district. The district over a two year period could pay back their expenses so as to be compatible with the concurrent districts. Currently, homeowners in the Shoreham - Wading River District pay only 15 per cent of the school district taxes compared with surrounding districts, whose residents pay upwards of 50 per cent. Shoreham - Wading River currently spends close to \$12,000 to educate each student. Surrounding districts average just over \$4,000.

The problem with windfall taxes that flow from a facility such as Shoreham is that the governments and school districts who benefit learn to live too extravagantly. The extra money seems to burn a hole in their pockets, and is something that buys a lot of extras that reflect frills rather than necessities.

In Brookhaven Town the extra money has caused excessive hiring to satisfy patronage desires or whims. The extra people on the town's payrolls, some filling little more than public relation functions to make public officials look good, earn more in many instances than private industry can afford to pay. If the

municipalities, and the school districts, had to justify these extras to the taxpayers who would have to shoulder the burden without the windfall taxes, all hell would break loose.

Suffolk County itself is operating with a bloated budget and, given ample time, could cut back on expenses to make up for the Shoreham shortfall.

It has been suggested that LILCO management's arrogant decision was an attempt to embarrass the county and put it in financial jeopardy. It has also been suggested that LILCO did not have the money to pay the taxes, and their so-called escrow account has been created out of mirrors and is nothing more than illusionary.

We believe LILCO's action was fraudulent, and may be subject to a civil law suit. We also believe that an immediate audit should be made to determine if any ratepayers' money has been collected to pay Shoreham's taxes. If indeed it has, there could be the possibility that this money was collected on false pretenses and that criminal charges could be instituted against management and the Board of Directors.

The situation is far too serious to be put on the shelf to see what will happen. Suffolk County Executive Peter F. Cohan should order the District Attorney's office to convene a special Grand Jury if money collected for a specific purpose is being illegally withheld. LILCO's credibility is such that nothing less than a full audit and thorough investigation will satisfy the public.

The state Attorney General's Office should be directed to institute a full investigation and develop whatever charges that may apply. The Governor must also bring the full weight of his office down on the Public Service Commission, ordering it to stop protecting the utility and to protect the people by launching its own investigation to insure all monies the PSC permits LILCO to include in its rate base are used properly.

One of the reasons LILCO lists for its withholding action is the "chance of recouping overpayments of taxes through refunds are slim" because of the large amount involved. This presupposes, of course, that LILCO is due any refunds. That question could be resolved in a more equitable fashion if LILCO would stop stalling the legal action with the town on assessment gripes, which town officials claim the utility has been guilty of.

If fears of not being able to recoup can legitimately be used in this instance, the public has such a problem as well. As of October, 1983, LILCO had received, through the ratepayers, some \$374 million in Construction Work In Progress funds permitted by

the PSC. Approximately 5 per cent of every dollar you pay the utility goes to fund the Shoreham debacle in CWIP funds. If the plant does not operate, and the state's "used and useful" law is applied, will LILCO be able to return those funds to the ratepayers? We seriously doubt it. In fact, with LILCO so close to the brink of bankruptcy, the PSC should immediately order a halt to the collection of CWIP funds for a plant that LILCO itself now admits may never open.

If the District Attorney's Office does not act, the state Attorney General ignores the situation and the

Governor turns out to have neither the courage nor the conviction to meet head on the arrogance of LILCO's Board of Directors, then the only alternative left for the public is to rebel.

What a sorry state of affairs we have come to here in Suffolk County when the largest corporate citizen, LILCO, takes the law into its own hands, setting an example for the rest of us to follow. This matter must be put to rest through litigation and through due process, or revolution will surely follow.

And why not?

Unified Drinking Age

Last year, New York State raised its minimum drinking age to 19 years of age. We supported this move, not so much to stop 18 year olds from drinking, but to stop the younger peers of the 18 year olds who were still in high school from having alcohol available to them.

Realistically we all would be far better off if we never heard of alcohol and never had it available to us. We tried to mandate the elimination of alcohol through prohibition. It was a social experiment that ended in disaster. During prohibition it became vogue to drink illegally. People who normally didn't, did. There probably was as much illegal booze around during prohibition as there was legal booze before prohibition.

This social experiment proved you cannot effectively legislate unpopular laws governing people's morals or ethics. The only concrete result of prohibition was the enrichment of criminal elements and the development of the bloody gang wars.

Governor Mario Cuomo is advocating raising the legal drinking age in New York State to 21. He wants the surrounding states to join him in this endeavor. We think this attempt to legislate morality would be an exercise in futility. It just doesn't have logic on its side. How do you tell a young citizen it's against the law to

drink when you say you are old enough to work as a man, pay taxes, vote, marry, have children and die for your country. Young men and women will ignore the law and chance being arrested. We will not effectively be able to enforce the law. We do not have enough alcohol agents or police to stand inside and out of every bar, every liquor store and every delicatessen.

We find it ironical that Cuomo is advocating this change and yet has not had the skill, the power or the governmental ability to get photographs on licenses as was promised when the 19-year-old drinking age went into effect. Because this measure has not been carried out, we still have 16, 17, and 18 year olds with false proof buying more booze than they can consume, and there isn't much being done to stop them.

Sure there aren't as many kids drinking in bars, but there are more kids drinking at their hangouts, in parking lots and private homes.

We still support the 19-year-old drinking law. It will work and work effectively once we have permanent identification. But it doesn't stand a prayer now, nor does a law raising the age to 21, because it will not be socially acceptable. It will be easily circumvented.

And why not?

'The Heart Association needs teamwork...'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The American Heart Association wishes to thank all those people who helped make 1983 a successful year.

We especially want to recognize the media, which is our main source of promoting the heart cause. Without your support, Suffolk County residents would not be aware of our programs.

Through your help, and the help of other community-minded organizations and in-

dividuals, over \$250,000 was raised last year for research grants, conducted at Stony Brook University.

The Heart Association needs teamwork, and the media is a vital part of that team. We thank you for your past support, and look forward to your continued help in 1984.

Sincerely,
Ronald P. Kaminski
Executive Director

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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General Information

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Costly Political Game

Suffolk County Legislator Louis Howard, presiding officer of the legislature, reached deep into his bag of political vengeance last week when he made committee assignments. And the public is the loser.

It is a well-known fact that the party in power guards like the family jewels, the choice assignments when the selection process is underway. Thus, the Republicans, who control the county legislative body with ten legislators as compared to seven for the Democrats; generally are named to the key spots, and those from the other side of the aisle get the leftovers. Howard went beyond that normal practice this year, however, by deposing Legislator Gregory Blass from the chairmanship of the legislature's Health Committee.

Blass, you might remember, was an instrumental part of an effort to remove Howard as presiding officer, together with Legislators John Rosso and Patrick Heaney, who was elected for his first term last November. That effort was tied to support by the Democrats but failed when, reportedly, Democratic County Leader Dominic Baranello stepped in to prevent the Democratic legislators from participating in the effort.

Ironically, it was Heaney who was named to replace Blass as the chairman of the Health Committee, a key legislative group. Howard's action in putting a freshman legislator, who has been in office but a few weeks, at the head of this key committee is an indication of the political nature of the man, and, apparently, his lack of concern for the welfare of the people of Suffolk County.

Suffolk Life has not been counted among the most ardent Greg Blass fans in past years. We have, in the past, voiced misgivings about his track record as a legislator. But Blass has shown many signs of maturing in the role and it has been in the area of health committee related activities that he has shown much dedication and concern, and has been effective.

In our experience covering many of the health-related problems resulting from water pollution and a host of other environmental issues, we found Blass to be forceful in seeking out the problems and searching for solutions. One instance that comes to mind involved a suspected nuclear waste site in Bellport where concerns about buried waste had been voiced for many years to no avail. Thanks to Blass, and Legislator John Foley who is a member of the Health Committee, the Health Department was pressured to reinspect the site. Lo and behold, some waste was found buried behind the former waste facility and was removed.

Blass had scheduled hearings on the matter, and had asked for and received subpoena powers in order to have the former waste site's owner appear before the committee. However, because the county is the target of litigation concerning waste reportedly coming from that site, the county's legal people cautioned the

hearings would not be in the best interests of the county, and they have been stalled.

Now it has come to light through records finally obtained by Blass from West Valley, the state's former waste disposal facility, the matter bears more investigation. Information on water test readings not previously reported deserve further scrutiny. That scrutiny should be by the same people that have been involved all along, and by the same leadership.

Just recently, residents of the Northport area expressed grave concern about chlordane readings found in school buildings. Because Howard's appointments had not been made, the health committee was prevented from meeting to deal with that problem. Howard was reportedly on vacation at the time, and was reportedly "not due back in the office" until the following week. But he was clearly visible at the Republican fund-raising affair held before he was "due back." If he was in the area he could certainly have taken action. He didn't.

Time may prove that Heaney is an extremely fine legislator. Our concern is not a reflection on Heaney or his capabilities. But to place him as the chairman of a key committee — particularly at a point in time when many health-related problems are cropping up throughout the county — is not an action that deserves anyone's applause. It would have been far better for everyone concerned, and certainly a much more intelligent administrative move, to appoint Heaney as a member of the health committee so that he could gain experience in the full depth of the problems and reach the point at which he can exert full leadership, before putting him into the chairman's seat.

If Howard was truly concerned about the people of Suffolk County, and concerned that rumors of Blass seeking a congressional seat, which he used as an excuse to cover up his act of political vengeance, would indeed have cut into Blass' time, he could have named a health committee member with experience to the chairman's spot. John Foley, for example.

But that, apparently, would have gone against Howard's political grain. And that, very apparently, is what the man is all about.

We think the other members of the legislature, from both sides of the political spectrum, should speak up against this action. While it may be within Howard's authority to name the committee members and chairmen, we think the legislators should make it known to Howard, here and now, that they will not stand for the playing of political games at the expense of the public welfare. That his title is presiding officer, not dictator.

If they do anything less they will prove to be little more than the political creature that Lou Howard has become.

And why not?

The county finally leaked the story about its planned forthcoming sales tax.

As had been expected, they are blaming LILCO's refusal to pay their real estate taxes on the Shoreham plant as the reason you are going to be asked to accept paying one per cent more sales tax here in Suffolk County.

LILCO is a convenient charade and an excuse. The real need for the increased sales tax is to make up for Peter Cohalan's sins of the past. When Cohalan gave away the store last spring to the police, the sheriffs and the C.S.E.A. workers, he maintained there was plenty of anticipated tax money to fund these giveaways. No new taxes would be needed, he insisted.

We spent numerous hours at that time evaluating the various sources of projected income for the county, and it was clear for all who wanted to see that the contracts would result in up to a \$40 million short fall, plus necessitate severe cutbacks in the labor force unless either the sales tax or real estate taxes were raised dramatically.

We did not expect that this would happen until 1985 when the full impact of the C.S.E.A. contract goes into effect. We now understand that the county cannot afford its police contract under current revenues, and Cohalan and crew have worked out a deal calling for the enactment of an additional one per cent sales tax to become effective this year.

The way we get the story, the scenario will work as follows: When Cohalan gets back from sunning himself in the Caribbean, he will go before the county legislature in an emergency session, declaring that because LILCO has refused to pay taxes due on the Shoreham plant the county must raise new revenues. He then recommends a sales tax so that everyone can pay according to their abilities, rather than increasing the real estate tax which would hurt primarily landowners.

The county legislature, Democrats and Republicans, posture loudly and vehemently that they will not pass an increase in the sales tax but, in the end, crumble like little boys and girls to Lou Howard's dictates.

The state legislators from Suffolk,

who are running for re-election this year say, "No Way Jose, we are not passing a sales tax during election year." For practical purposes, without the Suffolk delegation supporting the bill, it can't get through the state legislature.

But lo and behold, what the public is not supposed to know is that Cohalan and Company have already cut a deal through the Republican leadership to have the Nassau delegation sponsor the bill and engineer its passage in Albany.

Nassau legislators become heroes to their constituents as they have forced Suffolk's sales tax up to 8¼ per cent just like theirs. Nassau County consumers no longer have an advantage of shopping in Suffolk to save one per cent sales tax. The Suffolk legislators can go back to their voters and say, "We fought Cohalan all the way, but our brethren in Nassau County sold us out."

This is the way Cohalan and Company have it planned. The funds are used to satisfy the needs of the police contract and to bail out the Southwest Sewer District. LILCO either pays its indebtedness or the county borrows against the day the taxes are collected.

This charade to raise the sales tax to 8¼ per cent is probably one of the most blatant examples of mismanagement by the Cohalan administration, a mistake they are trying to enact to correct the mistakes of the past. We had hoped Cohalan had learned his lesson by his poor showing last November. He might have, but obviously the people he counts on to guide him haven't.

It's too bad voters will have to wait four years to change the administration but, then again, you never can tell, there is a Supreme Court judgeship coming up in November and we wouldn't be a bit surprised if Cohalan is the candidate.

Talk to your county legislator, talk to your state legislator, and for those of you who are registered Republicans, talk to your leadership, which we understand engineered this whole deal.

Stop the sales tax increase before it's enacted.

And why not?

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