

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Who's To Blame?

Housewives across America are asking why are beef prices so high. Why am I paying more today for beef than I have in the past? Why is my tax money being used (\$100,000,000 worth of it) by the government to buy up excess beef?

These are questions that need answers badly. We operate under a capitalistic system of free enterprise. When supply is abundant, prices are supposed to go down. Prices, for the farmers, have gone down to a point where they are driving many cattle raisers to bankruptcy.

Farmers today are receiving less than 30 cents a pound for their cattle on the hoof. Yet supermarkets are paying almost 50 per cent more for the same beef. A supermarket executive told us that supermarkets right now are operating at 4 per cent less gross profit than they were a year ago during the price freeze and the beef shortage. Something is cockeyed in Guacamara.

While digging for facts, we found that the large meat processing houses have enjoyed increases in net profits of 300 to 400 per cent over a year ago. There were once a great number of meat processing houses; today they are concentrated under relatively few names. Because they have a virtual stranglehold on the market, these packing houses appear to be able to manipulate the pricing on the market.

No supermarket wants to be caught with its meat counters empty, and therefore they are willing to pay the price asked by the processors. Thus, you have a situation where the farmer on one end is not getting a fair return for his product and the consumer on the other end paying an exorbitantly high price, while the middle man, the processor, is reaping enormous profits.

Create scarcity?

It was suggested by the supermarket executive that these processing houses would only have to hold back as little as 5 per cent to create a situation of scarcity. With today's enormous refrigeration capacity, it is not hard for processors to stockpile 5 per cent of their slaughtering capacity.

Today's high meat prices are not the result of supermarkets making enormous profits, nor are they the result of the farmers getting fat. They are the result of control by one segment of the industry; and this has

come about because this industry does not fear government intervention.

Controlling the market is illegal under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, but as we have seen with our giant oil companies, we have a government in the United States today that would prefer to meddle rather than perform

Good Service Turned Down

"Incredible", "unbelievable", were reactions from the public when it was announced the Interstate Commerce Commission had turned down Mascony's application to put into service a new ferry for crossing the Sound. The public is stuck with the McAllister service-which it has been suffering with for years.

Testimony in favor

Testimony given by the public at the hearings, both in New Haven and Greenport, was overwhelmingly in favor of the Mascony proposition. The public is so desperate for good, year-round, reliable service, they would have accepted just about any alternative to the present service. This was not what the ICC was asked to accept.

The Mascony proposition was excellent. The ferry boats are designed to be just that. They are ferries that were used to cross the Chesapeake Bay, designed to accommodate passengers, cars and trucks. The program and schedules proposed by the Mascony organization far surpass those of the McAllister group. Mascony planned to run year round and was willing to accept up to 50 per cent of its capacity on a reservation basis.

Protecting whose interest?

The ICC, instead of protecting the public interest seemed more intent on protecting the monopoly of franchise holders. For some reason the ICC has the queer notion that competition would hurt overall service.

We have yet to see where competition, free of government controls, has hurt the public. Generally what happens is competition causes those involved to continually improve service, lower rates -- and because of this, more people use the service, which results in greater profits.

In cases where the government grants monopolies to outfits such as McAllister, or to companies like LILCO and the telephone company, service becomes a word to be laughed at, rates skyrocket and the public is abused.

- and until this government is changed, the consumer will end up paying more and more while the raw supplier is driven closer and closer to bankruptcy.

The consumers will have an opportunity to show their displeasure this November. And why not?

Why?

We can see no logical reason why this application was turned down, or why it took the length of time it did to process, except that it was handled by a government bureaucracy that just doesn't give a damn about the public.


If you feel as we do -- that this was an unfair and unjust decision -- we encourage you to write your feelings to Gerald H. Curry, District Supervisor, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D.C. 20423, immediately, as there is a slim chance this case may be re-opened. You will also find it effective to send a copy of this to your Congressmen, Otis Pike or James Grover, and to Senators James Buckley and Jacob Javits at their addresses listed below.

Let these men know you do not feel your government is working for, or is looking out for your interests and that you intend to show your displeasure come November with those who are in office and are responsible for making it all happen. And why not?

Otis G. Pike, 132 Ostrander Avenue, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901.

James R. Grover, 185 Woodsome Road, Babylon, N.Y. 11702.


Senators James Buckley and Jacob Javits, U.S. Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20501.



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John Q. Public Asks Where Inflation Comes From

The number one worry of John Q. Public is how he is going to be able to keep his head above water in the present wave of inflation. John Q. is the innocent victim of a sickness that has taken over our country. Everybody, including the government itself, wants more.

The government has built into its system of taxation the mechanics for taking more during a period of inflation. It is called the escalating corporate and personal income tax. The more people make, the higher the percentage of their earnings must be paid into taxes. The value of the money they are making is never taken into consideration.

People who never dreamed of being in the upper tax brackets find themselves there today. The only difference between them and their predecessors, the super-rich (whose turf this used to be), is they do not have the advantage of high-priced tax accountants and attorneys.

The average person who finds himself now paying 25, 30, 40, 50 percent in direct income taxes has none of the advantages of the super-rich. He only has the feeling of making a lot of money and seeing it taken away from him; and the money he is left with does not buy anywhere near what his moderate salary bought years ago.

The worst part of all this is the government, with its expanded treasury, has all this money to dispose of and spends it with reckless abandon. This only fuels the fire of inflation and causes the average person to have to earn more dollars in order to be able to buy the same goods he bought prior to inflation. But in earning this money he has to pay not only more tax dollars, but a higher percentage of tax dollars because now he is in these new high income tax brackets.

It's a vicious circle that can only end with responsible people in government. This is sadly lacking at the present time, from the Presidency clear through the House of Representatives and the Senate.

At one time, when you had the Democratic and Republican parties standing for different philosophies, you could always turn to the

Republican Party for fiscal responsibility. This is not the case today. With the super-liberal influence of your Javits, your Rockefellers and others, the Republican Party is out-bidding the Democratic Party to see who can spend more tax dollars to create more inflation.

As we have said before, the voters does have some control at his disposal. He can examine the candidates for

federal office and vote on them intelligently instead of just going along with the tide and pulling down a party lever or voting for the man with the biggest smile.

Congressmen and Senators are in a position to control inflation. They should exercise this responsibility and if they don't, the voter must exercise his responsibility by putting into office people who will. And why not?

Why Should We Subsidize McAllister?

If the Lord helps those who help themselves, then He surely is confused when He looks down on the ferries which jolt their way between Orient Point and New London.

For this week, James McAllister, operator of the current ferry "service" told us, with hope in his eye, that if the State of New York helps him with money, he'd buy the new boats he's been promising to buy.

In other words, if he doesn't get the money, you can still plan to line up for hours on end to drive onto his World War II landing craft. Then you'll really drag out every prayer you've ever learned.

On the other hand, there's the Mascony Company who proposes to put big, safe ferries into use right now, without requiring one dime of your taxes. It seems to be a case of which firm has better political connections. Mascony's proposal (the one for good service without need of tax money) was turned down by the Interstate Commerce Commission which regulates such things.

Why should the public be asked to subsidize a private corporation that has a monopoly granted by Interstate Commerce regulations, when another entrepreneur has requested permission to operate and is not asking for a subsidy? The public needs good ferry service. It should have it. The public could have it and would have it if Mascony's application had been approved.

The application was denied and now we have left a sole operator saying he cannot give the service to the public unless he can look forward to being

subsidized with our tax dollars. It just doesn't make any sense at all. Meanwhile, Speaker Perry Duryea "is working on getting us some help", McAllister told a Suffolk Life reporter.


Washington's political arrogance has nothing on Suffolk County. It's an election year, yet our politicians feel they can get away with making us wait a half-day or more to get on a creaky ferry boat, and use our tax money to bail out the boat!

If we're dumb enough to put up with that at the polls this November, we'd better call on God for His help, because we'll really need it. Wonder if Noah had these kinds of problems? And why not?

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Nixon: Resign Now!!

As impeachment becomes an almost certainty, and the Supreme Court has ruled unanimously, 8-0 against Nixon, we believe our President is left with no choice. He must resign.

We have been a supporter of Nixon through both terms of office. Not only have we been a supporter of Nixon, but of the office of the Presidency. We are of the school that believes "right or wrong, he is still my President".

But, conditions have come to a point where we must be practical. Therefore, we urge Nixon, for the good of the country and for the good of the people, to resign and allow this country to pick itself up and continue on.

We must look to the Presidency as we must look at our own station in life. As the editor of this paper, I am responsible for the actions of all my people. When they are right, I am right, and when they are wrong, I must share the burden of the guilt.

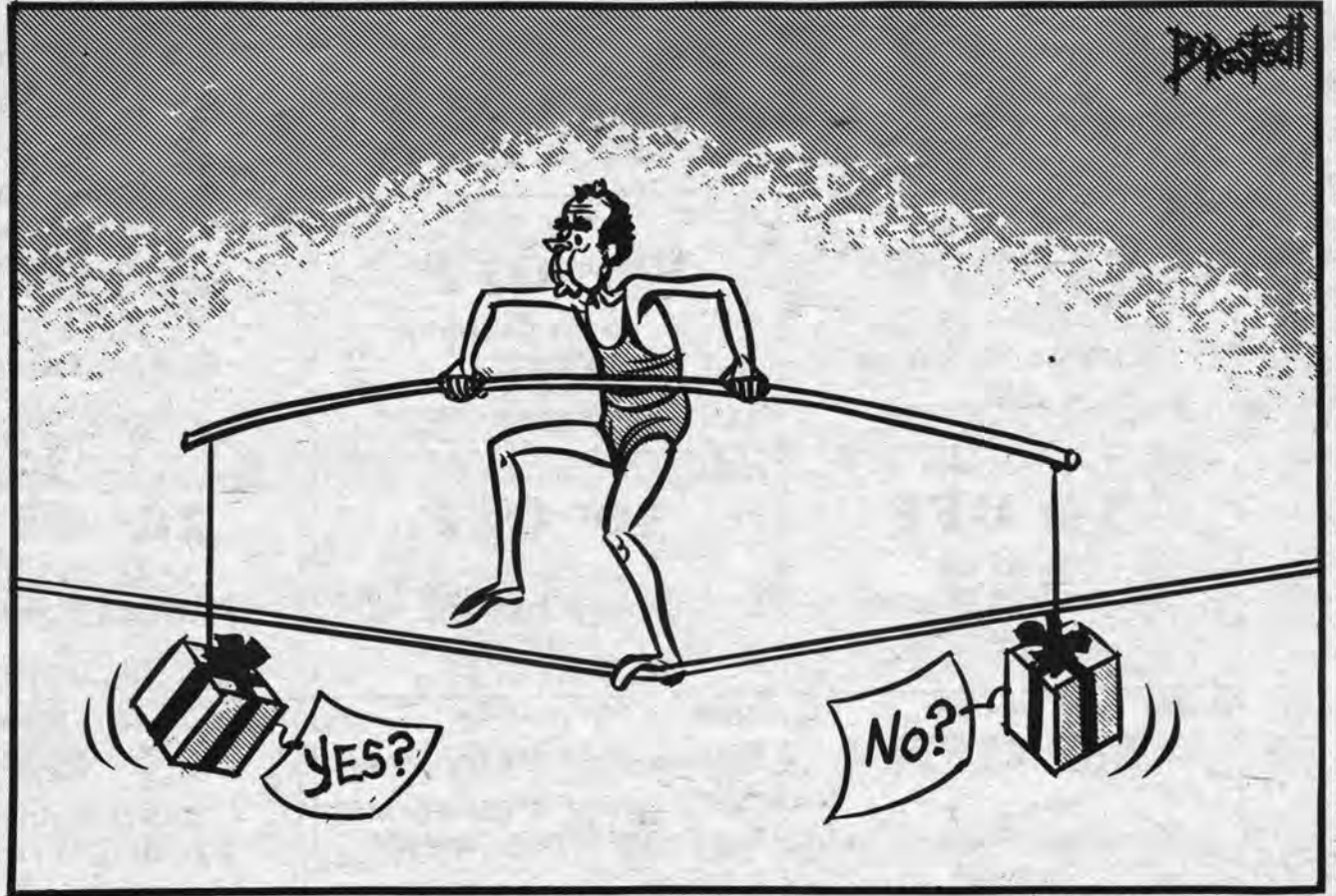
Some things can be dismissed, but others are of a nature where they affect not only the staff, but our readers and our advertisers. If they are of such magnitude or are allowed to be blown out of proportion by our inability to control them and cause readers to lose faith in the credibility of the paper, and our advertisers have the results they are paying for diminished, then changes must be made. If the only change that would end the problem were my resignation, then that is what it would have to be.

We believe most businessmen and heads of organizations feel this way and they would do the honorable thing even though they may not be directly responsible and it might be costly financially, and more costly to their ego and self-esteem.

President Nixon is in this position. By remaining in office, he has not only caused the American public to lose its respect for the office of the presidency, but has diminished the public's belief in the whole governmental system.

This is reflected in day-to-day attitudes towards all branches of government and can be felt directly in the economy. The stock market is plunging headlong towards breaking 700. Consumer sales are off, except where boosted by a seasonal economy.

Inflation is rampant and growing worse by the day. The Gross National Product has not moved ahead, but has fallen -- which indicates that the



country is in a recession. Never before have you had a recession and inflation combined.

We believe this is attributable to Nixon, to Watergate, and the public's lack of confidence in the country as a

whole.

For the good of the country and to give it a chance to re-establish itself on a sound footing, we ask Mr. Nixon to do the honorable thing. Resign, now. And why not?

You Are Asked To Give Once A Year

Most of Suffolk County's volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies are in the midst of running their fund raising drives. These companies and fire departments are comprised of your neighbors, your friends and associates. They give countless hours of their free time and take time away from their families to protect you from harm.

They spend hundreds of hours each year in training aside from the time they spend in the performance of their duties. They save hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax monies that would otherwise have to be spent if these were not all volunteer companies.

During July and August, the volunteers run various fund raising operations. They send out flyers, have house-to-house solicitations, run bar-b-ques and carnivals. It is through these efforts that they raise the monies for their activities.

These monies are used for health and welfare as well as community activities. Most departments sponsor drum and bugle corps, Little League teams, donate to the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts, and other similar groups.

These funds are also used for the betterment of the department and, yes, some of these funds are even used to buy the men a can of beer after a fire or a drill.

We encourage every resident in Suffolk Life-Land to give generously when they are called upon. Your contribution is more a show of support than a real pay-back for the services that you receive from these men. And why not?

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