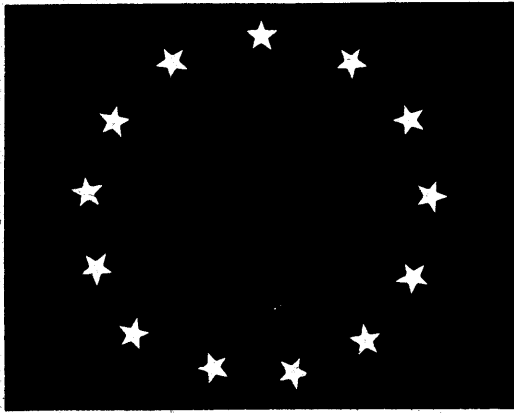


# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Happy Birthday, America



... Sunday, July 4th is our 200th anniversary. It commemorates the day and the spirit of our forefathers bravely signing the Declaration of Independence, renouncing the tyranny of British rule. It is our declaration that we, as Americans, intended then and now to be free to govern ourselves individually and collectively as a nation.

This is a proud day for all Americans for we have withstood the rigors of time, the challenges from within and without. We have a right to be proud of our country and our heritage. America has achieved more for herself, her people and the world than any other nation has ever attempted. This has been made possible, not only by the natural resources this country possesses, but because of her people.

America: the melting pot of all nations, colors, ethnic and religious backgrounds has her people working together in unity, building a place for themselves and joining hands to build the strongest country in the world.

America has been and is a land of freedom and a land of opportunity. Our freedoms are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, spelled out in black and white. Our laws and our justice apply to every man equally. Our capitalistic economic system encourages all to prosper and profit from the efforts they put forth; it provides an opportunity for both the ambitious entrepreneur and the productive worker.

I have only been alive for about 20 per cent of America's existence. During these years, I have come to know, to love and to be proud of this country, its' people, and its' government.

As a child, my country gave me an education that is second to none in the world. Not only was I taught writing, reading and mathematics, but because of the freedoms guaranteed me by our constitution I was encouraged to think, to question and express my opinions.

America is a religious country. All faiths are represented. I was free of discrimination and ridicule to pursue my belief in God as I saw fit. Look at history and look at the wars fought because individuals wanted to participate in the simple act of worshipping God, each as he saw fit, instead of practicing the sect the government chose for him.

When my schooling was finished, I was free to choose the occupation I desired. I wasn't forced to be a carpenter, a doctor, garbageman, or a lawyer. The freedom of choice is given to me and to you in America.

When I reached 21 and was considered a man; I was granted the privilege of voting. This franchise enables me to directly help select those I want to govern me. I am free to chose from people who represent the political spectrum from Communist to the John Birch ideologies, or I can support the mainstream candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties. Count the number of other countries that offer its' people

the right to choose and to change leadership and mean it.

When I had finally settled down and decided what I wanted to do with my life, the economic system in America allowed me to invest my meager wealth into what has grown into Suffolk Life Newspapers. When I made this choice I was not faced with outrageous government restrictions or restrictive licensing procedures. I simply was able to invest my capital, my ambitions, my energies, my enthusiasms, and my time.

Not only did our wonderful system of government allow me to go into the newspaper business, but I was guaranteed by the Bill of Rights freedom to express myself openly, candidly and honestly without fear of government retaliation. I am free to express my opinion and to honestly say what I feel when and how I wish. What other country can afford to encourage this kind of liberty?

When it came time for me to take a wife she was of my choosing, as were the number of children I desired. I was free because of the structure of my government, and from any regulations that would stop me from fulfilling this aspect of my life. I have chosen the place for my home, the kind of house and the kind of grounds I desire. I was not faced with government owned housing that would force me to live where the government chose as people are in many places of the world.

As my children have grown I have had the freedom to choose how they would be educated-a private school, a parochial school or a public school. I have a say in the courses they will take and the teachers who will teach them, which is unheard of in most parts of the world.

What freedom America gives its people! My business has been able to grow and to expand it will because of this freedom. I have been able to provide opportunities for others, for young and old, male and female, white and black. I am not told who I must hire or how many I must hire; no one is told they must work for me. As a result Suffolk Life and its employees are able to form a partnership which profits all through mutual effort.

America is one of the few countries in the

world where I am free to sell my possessions and move, not only anywhere within the country, but I may go abroad without notice.

It may be corny and unsophisticated, but as an individual I am very proud to be part of America on her 200th birthday. As I look at my country on the eve of this momentous occasion, I see a country filled with hope. She is not without her problems, but many of these problems are opportunities in reality. I enthusiastically look forward as an individual to accepting my responsibility as a citizen helping America develop in the future.

America is my country by birth and by choice. I am thankful fate allowed me to be born here, for it is the one place in the world I am free to be myself. We take this very basic freedom for granted, but when we look out over our oceans and across the shores, is this not fundamentally the difference between America and the rest of the world?

Happy Birthday, America. You are a grand country filled with hope, promise and opportunity--and I am glad to be part of you. And why not?

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## We've been had

King John and his fair-haired boy Sir Floyd prevailed upon those gallant knights in crumpled armor and the mystified ladies of the court this past week and enacted legislation pledging 33 1/3 per cent of the sales tax raised in Suffolk County to pay for the South West Sewer District bonds which were issued last week. Sales tax monies had been used in the past to hold down real estate taxes and to pay for services required by Suffolk County.

This move by the County Legislators and the County Executive borders on fraud. The South West Sewer District is a private use district. It was created by the voters of the South West Sewer District and the rest of Suffolk County was denied the right to approve or disapprove this mammoth pork barrel.

The South West Sewer District will only benefit those who live within the area. It was supposed to be paid for by those within the district and not by anyone else. All of Suffolk County is being taxed to pay for this sewer district; it is virtually taxation without representation. Every decent democratic principle is being violated.

John Klein and his gutless wonders who make-up the County Legislature have led us down the primrose path and the voters must remember what they did to us when they come up again for election.

The South West Sewer District has been a scandal since its conception. The voters of this district were frightened by unethical advertising and public relations into approving this mammoth public works program in a referendum. They were told that the total cost would not exceed \$250,000,000; but in reality the cost of the entire operation will come close to three billion dollars.

It makes you wonder what kind of idiots are in charge of budgeting and planning which are the direct responsibilities of John Klein, the chief fiscal officer of Suffolk County.

The sewer district and the County were right up against default when the County Legislature was called into special session last week to pass the legislation pledging our sales tax monies towards redemption of the bonds. Bankers and the bond marketeers claimed they could not sell these bonds unless they had a guarantee from general County funds that the bonds would be redeemable on their due date.

The bonds will probably be sold at 9.35 per cent interest rate, in itself an exorbitant profit on any investment, but particularly exorbitant when you consider the fact that these bond notes will be tax free. The purchasers of the notes will be realizing almost an 18 3/4 per cent return on their investment.

We have never understood why bonds are held so sacred. They are an investment; there is an element of risk with any kind of investment by which you hope to profit.

Our illustrious politicians tell us if the County had not pledged the 1 cent of our 3 cent sales tax, the South West Sewer District would have gone

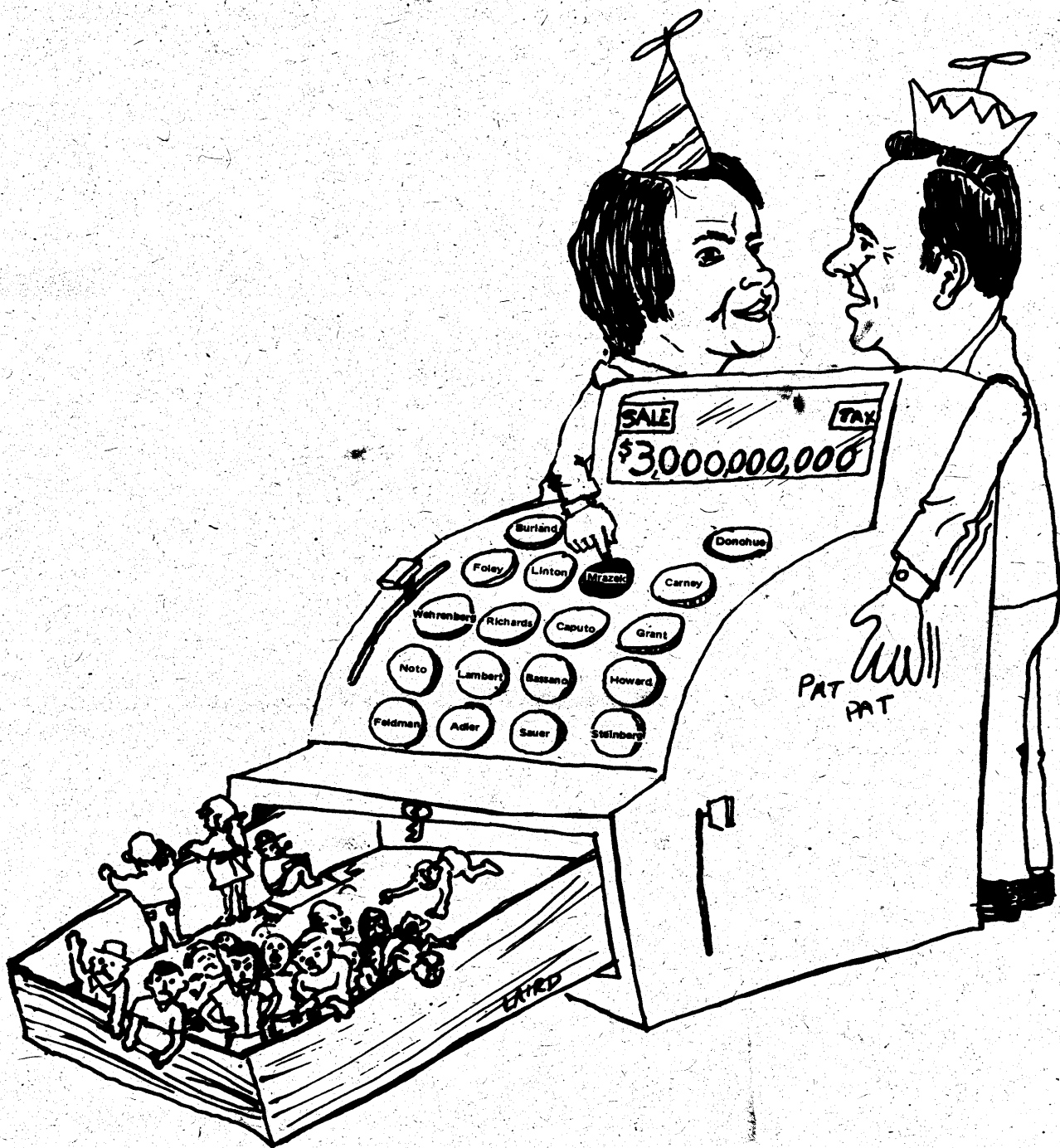
# Perry loves a lulu

From the reports coming out of Albany during the last days of the Legislative session, it appears Perry Duryea, our illustrious Assemblyman and Senate Minority Leader, was one of the biggest supporters of lulus. Lulus are those special bonuses that the Legislators reward themselves with for the great job that they have done for us during the year.

It was reported in the Long Island Press that

Duryea threatened anyone who did not vote in favor of the lulus that they never would obtain a committee chairmanship in either house.

When Perry comes around to solicit your vote this November, ask him why he needed to rip you off for these additional monies. Is he hard up, is the lobster business that bad, or is it just plain old Yankee greed? And why not?



into default. Many of us feel this would not have been the worst that could happen because it would stop once and for all the waste of our monies on this dubious project.

We've learned that someone, and no one is saying who, pledged the full faith and credit of Suffolk County to back the South West Sewer District. We wonder who had the authority to do this without a permissive referendum approved by all County voters. Are they not subject to legal prosecution for malfeasance in office?

With our limited knowledge of law, we believe if an employee of a company who has not been given specific written authorization is able to commit the company for a million dollar debt, he is subject to charges of fraud, and those who loan him the money are out of luck.

We would think the same principle would apply to the county, and this should be investigated. Every resident of Suffolk County has been taken badly and those who have taken us should be made to pay the price. And why not?

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# willmotts and why-nots

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## Putting an end to airport waste

The Citizens' Advisory Committee has come to the conclusion that the operation of the Suffolk County Airport had been mis-handled and resulted in a scandalous multi-million dollar waste of Suffolk taxpayers' money.

The committee has recommended the runways and support services be kept open on a limited basis while they prepare the ways and means of operating the airport in the future at little or no cost to the County. It was also recommended the County's contribution to the operation of the airport for the fiscal year 1977 be reduced from \$700,000 to \$100,000.

Actually, instead of the County contributing \$100,000, the committee would like to see many of the buildings presently situated at the airport rented out and utilized. It was their conclusion that a great majority of these buildings can be leased out by the County without FAA approval because they are not part and parcel of facilities vital to the aviation needs of the Suffolk County Airport.

There is over one-half million square feet in empty buildings that could be utilized. Many of these buildings are small and of limited use, but would make ideal shops for local service businesses. They could be rented out at minimal fees of 50 cents to \$1.50 per square foot. Other buildings, because of their design and construction, could bring as high as an estimated \$10.00 per square foot. These buildings can bring to Suffolk County government the revenues desperately needed to keep taxes down.

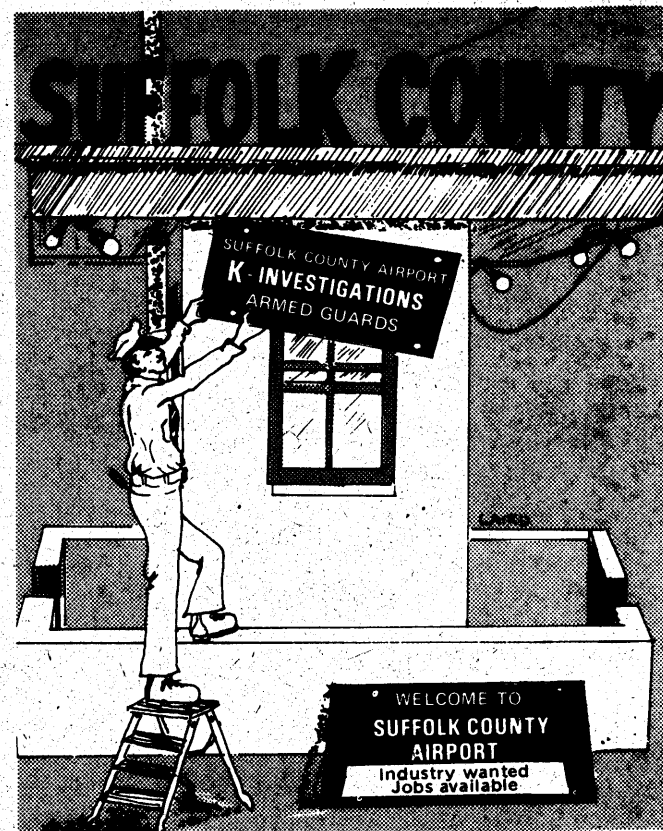
To be rented, the prospective client must be able to take possession within a reasonable period of time after negotiations for a lease are completed. In the past, because of the bureaucratic maze of Suffolk government, it has taken as long as four years before leases would be approved or disapproved; and in the case of one fixed base operator, he has been operating since the County officially took over the former Air Force base without a lease, causing him to operate in a legal vacuum.

The Suffolk County Industrial Commission should place its fullest efforts into securing businesses and industries for this vital facility as soon as possible. Any lack of effort on their part will cause additional waste of our precious assets and an increase in Suffolk County residents' future taxes.

Unfortunately, the Suffolk County Industrial Commissioner or his delegate, although an invited member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee, has shown almost no interest in the airport.

The Industrial Commissioner Gilbert Hanse showed up late for the first meeting, remained less than one-half hour and then departed, not to be seen or heard from since. Hanse was given the job as Industrial Commissioner to allow him to obtain a pension after he was defeated in his bid for office of County Executive.

It is nice of us to take care of the welfare of our politicians, but shouldn't our politicians at least pay lip service to the job they have been assigned



### Changing times?

to do? If Hanse and the Industrial Commission do not want the responsibility of promoting Suffolk's assets in a businesslike fashion, we should have somebody serving as Commissioner who will do the job.

This is our money being squandered. Suffolk County can ill afford the luxury of ineptness. Those who are public servants, whether they can be on the lowest rung of the Civil Service ladder or an appointed official, must be productive or disposed of.

In '77, let's approach Suffolk County government as a business and not a pork barrel ripe for the taking. A start has been made at the Suffolk County Airport. Painful decisions have come to pass. Now let this decision carry itself forward through every department within County government. And why not?

## Is federal welfare the answer?

The cost of welfare and social services is coming close to bankrupting both urban and industrial states. States like New York, Massachusetts, and Illinois have produced welfare systems that pay a person more to be on the dole than to take productive jobs at the lower end of the economic scale. This has caused a great exodus to those industrial states from rural America.

The federal government pays approximately 50 per cent of the welfare costs, state government pays 25 per cent and local municipalities or counties pick up the other 25 per cent. The federal government imposes, for their 50 per cent, many rules and regulations that are neither desired or wanted by the municipalities and the states; but they are forced to accept them if they accept federal funding.

Ronald Reagan, the conservative Republican candidate, has recommended a system whereby the federal government gets completely out of the welfare business.

The federal government would neither raise taxes nor provide funding, rules or regulations for states or municipalities. States and municipalities would be strictly on their own to develop and fund welfare programs to fit their particular needs.

Reagan's program has much merit and would reduce the cost of welfare extensively. It would cause hardships on people who are on welfare, but the states would then be free to cut back their programs to a level their residents could afford.

Liberal Democrats are pushing for federalization of the welfare system. We believe they are looking for a Santa Claus. Unfortunately, there isn't one. What they are seeking is a welfare program totally funded by the federal government but administered by the state. This can never work because it would cause far more problems than it could solve.

A 100 per cent federally funded welfare program could work if it was uniform in our fifty states, funded and administered by the federal government and permitted absolutely no local welfare programs. This might even be a more sensible solution to the problem than the one proposed by Reagan, as it would pay a person on welfare exactly the same amount to live in Alabama as Alaska or New York.

Of course, the liberals in our industrial states would have no part of this system. They could not use it to buy votes or to stay in power.

Realistically, America is a country of productive people. There is not the kind of margin built into our economic system that a welfare state demands, allowing a sizeable segment of our population to live off the sweat of those who do produce.

As painful as it may be for some, we are going to have to opt for one of the two systems, but not compromise. We can no longer afford to live in a no-man's land of federal, state and local welfare bungling.

If welfare continues to grow at the rate it has over the last decade, it will cause national

bankruptcy and a depression which could lead to anarchy and revolution.

We should see much discussion of the merits of both of these systems in the forthcoming presidential campaign and the direction this country will take should be clear by November. And why not?

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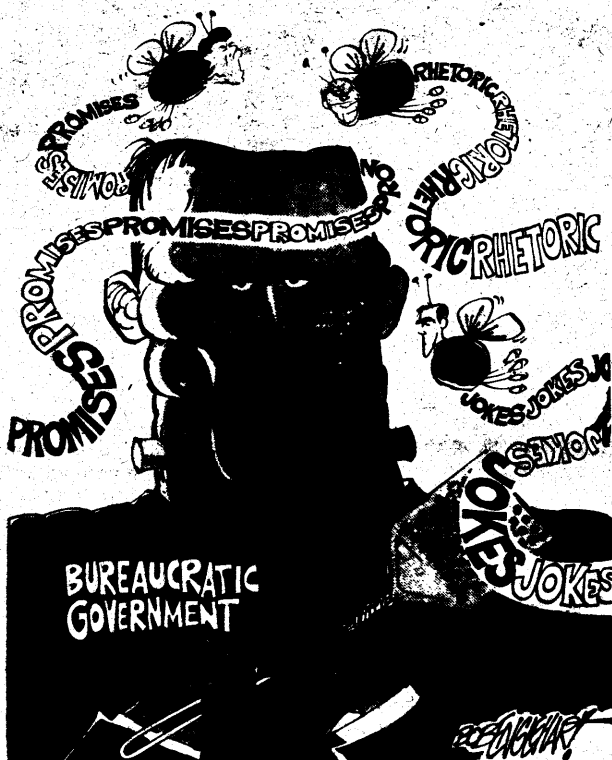
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# Keeping the status quo

Last November, Suffolk voters changed the politics of the County Legislature. On January 1, when the new legislature convened, the Democrats were in full control. With the number of freshmen faces, it was hoped changes would be in the wind.

As we look back over the past six months, we note there is almost no difference between the garbage Republicans were dumping in our political waters and what the Democrats are doing now. The evangelists of 1975 have suddenly become quite content with the status quo and it is business as usual in Suffolk.

The County Legislature's actions on the South West Sewer District exemplified this. Last week, the Legislature voted not to call a halt to construction and continued to advertise for bids and award contracts despite an outcry from the people who elected them to halt this mammoth pork barrel and to reinvestigate this entire project to find out how we, as Suffolk residents, can bail ourselves out of this mess.



Less than one month before this action, the Legislature voted to pledge thirty-three and one-third per cent of our current sales tax revenues to guarantee the bonds of the South West Sewer District. They claimed they were forced to do this because the full faith and credit of Suffolk County had been pledged behind these bonds and if this action had not been taken, the bonds would not be sold and the County would face default. By their actions they effectively have mandated that sales taxes must be raised by 25 per cent. The Legislature claims to have been forced to adopt this action by the sins of past Legislatures.

We questioned one of the more informed and conscientious freshmen, Claire Sauer of Huntington, to find out specifically who pledged the full faith and credit of Suffolk County and whether she had seen it documented or not. She said she is not interested in who did it in the past, but is only interested in solving the current problems. We fail to see how you can solve current problems unless you understand the full breadth and scope of past problems and learn fully from the mistakes.

Last Wednesday night, as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on the Suffolk County Airport, I spent a horrible and frustrating three hours at a meeting. The Committee has endeavored, over the last three months, to come to grips with the problem of

Suffolk County Airport and to find a practical alternative to keep it from closing. It had been announced the County intended to get out of this facility by the end of this year because it was costing us, the taxpayers, three-quarters of a million dollars to run the operation.

The Committee worked long and hard on the tedious task of finding and developing a 'bare bones' budget that would keep the airport open. The committee presented to the County Executive and the Legislature an interim report which contained recommendations for a bare bones budget and basic operation.

The budget was reduced from this year's \$629,299 to \$267,957. Out of the \$267,957, \$168,445 would come directly from rentals and fees. The County's share of the expense would be under \$100,000 for 1977. The committee has hoped and anticipated that even this could be eliminated by the rental of much of the valuable space located on the base.

Wednesday night, we sat there and watched our efforts being sabotaged. Before us we found two legislative resolutions transferring airport personnel who were to be eliminated by the bare bones budget, to other departments in the County. This was a sham.

Yes, the budget to operate the airport had been reduced, but Suffolk County taxpayers are still going to be asked to pay the same cost. The personnel had only been moved from one department to another and the same people, us, will end up paying the salaries.

The Republicans are noted for playing this kind of musical chairs. Yet, here we had our freshman Democrats making the same moves. Isn't anyone in County government willing to admit there is no Santa Claus, no Tooth Fairy or Easter Bunny?

When they finish their damn fool nonsense and utter mis-management, there is only one resource they can resort to for paying the bills: the taxpayer. It would be one thing if our taxes were going for worthwhile projects, but it is sickening to see our hard earned money wasted and squandered as it has been here in Suffolk County.

Our Legislature already shows signs of being thin-skinned. These so-called leaders don't like being criticized. People are stopping them on the streets and telling them what a rotten job they are doing. They feel this is unfair. Of course, they are blaming the newspapers for printing what they call half-truths and are alleging the facts are, in reality, opinions.

The Legislators are refusing to open their eyes to the real problem -- simply that they are doing a rotten job. No business on earth could survive being managed or, rather, mis-managed, the way this County is being run. Not one taxpayer could hope to stay out of bankruptcy court if he attempted to run his personal finances the way our Legislators and County Executive are running Suffolk County.

In the future, there shall be much more criticism and public involvement as people become more and more aware they have been raped. As long as politicians on both sides of the fence are willing to accept the status quo and refuse to accept responsibility for their actions, they set themselves up for just criticism. When they find the courage to act as sound business people, who when faced with hard problems, come to hard conclusions-there will then be hope for the future.

After weighing six-months of a new County Legislature and a second term of the County Executive, we can't say we are very optimistic about the future. And why not?

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David J. Willmott, Editor

## By a show of hands

John F. Randolph, freshman Supervisor of Brookhaven Town, instituted a policy of allowing the public to show their feelings at public hearings by calling for a show of hands vote. We commend him for this democratic move that makes public hearings really public hearings and not just lip-service.

Often public hearings are mandated by law for zoning changes and other land use applications.

We have attended many of these hearings over the years as a newspaperman and it was often clear the sentiments of the audience was against a particular proposition.


The board, at the end of the hearing, would announce no decision would be made that night but would instead, be announced at a forthcoming meeting. In this way they were able to avoid face-to-face conflict with the public when they announced they were going to act against the people's will.

Randolph has been criticized and is being unduly pressured to change this procedure at meetings. It appears those who were once able to get their way in the smoke-filled back rooms no longer find Brookhaven Town easy pickings, and they have now mounted a campaign to belittle Randolph for his efforts to return government to the people.


We hope Randolph does not become discouraged by the subtle criticism he is receiving and continues to recognize his responsibility and the reason he was elected Supervisor. It is good to see people involved for a change and moves like Randolph's will go a long way towards encouraging people to be involved in government. This could restore their faith in themselves and their government. And why not?

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