

It Pays To Grieve

On July 15, you have an opportunity to do more than complain about your taxes. There is a good chance the home you live in is overassessed.

The government has valued your house for tax purposes at more than the selling price. As a result, you are paying taxes based on this erroneous assessment. The third Tuesday of July is set as Grievance Day, the one day of the year you can make formal application to protest your overassessment or inequality in taxes you pay.

For the past three years, we at Suffolk Life have published information on how to go about rectifying the errors in your tax bill. Today's edition again is devoted to this subject. Last year in Brookhaven Town alone, more than 5,000 residents, using the information

published in Suffolk Life and with the aid and help of groups set up to assist in the grievance procedure, received reductions. The procedure is relatively simple as explained in other pages of this publication.

The Grievance Board is made up of average citizens like yourself, empowered to hear your complaints and rule on their validity. Why pay more taxes based upon an erroneous evaluation? Couldn't you use a reduction in your tax bill? The system to get it is there for you to use.

We encourage all those who feel they are overassessed to make formal application. The result of this minimum effort might gain you the equivalent of a raise in money left over after taxes. Help yourself -- it works.

And why not?

Thanks, Dom

Dom:

We can only guess you called in favors as State Democratic chairman to get action on the Moriches Inlet situation. Prior to our writing an open letter to you, in the form of an editorial, we had given up hope of ever seeing the Army Corps of Engineers changing its mind and providing the funding needed to close the gap on the barrier beach.

As you are aware, residents and leaders of Suffolk County and con-

tingents of politicians had beseeched Washington for action. Politics threatened lives and homes. Their voices fell on deaf ears. Miraculously last week the Army Corps officials changed their minds.

We don't know whose arm you twisted or how you did it, but we thank you for the effort you put forth that has resulted in the Corps agreeing to repair the breakthrough in the Moriches Inlet.

And why not?

Why Study The Obvious?

The big three, Grumman, LILCO and Northville Corp., are insisting Riverhead officials consider the possibility of an oil refinery.

We agree with Northville that Long Island needs domestic oil. The fact that we are 100 percent dependent on foreign oil places us in a precarious position. It results in home heating and gasoline costs being 10 to 25 percent higher than other sections of the nation. This same dependency is one reason Long Island has the second highest electrical rates in the nation.

There is no question Riverhead could use a major industry to lessen the impact on its real estate burden. But, also no one doubts that we're far from any technology that makes an oil refinery a good neighbor. Oil refineries, whether dealing with clean domestic oil or with heavy sulphur content, produce obnoxious, offensive odors. It's unhealthy and uncomfortable to live with. Refinery operations can be seen for miles. There isn't enough land on all of Long Island to buffer them from visual

contamination. The oil coming to and leaving the refinery is subject to accidents at every step of the process. Tankers break up, hoses break, couplings break, trucks drip oil, and yes, kill and maim people.

Many of us, particularly on the East End, have a personal knowledge of at least one person involved in an accident with a truck transporting petroleum from Northville. Those of us who have worked with and around government have seen "studies" produced for the sole purpose of offering overwhelming arguments favoring a proposition. To oppose the idea is like being against the Boy Scouts and Motherhood. Later, when the study has become a fait accompli, we find the statistics were lies and the conclusion packaged horse manure, but we are saddled with the end results.

We do not have to look far back in history for an example. LILCO presented studies, allegations and erroneous conclusions in developing the Shoreham nuclear power plant. The most convincing argument was that there had never been a major accident involving a nuclear power plant. The state of the technology, the safety precautions, were too advanced for this to happen. Three Mile Island changed this and made a pack of lies out of all said earlier. People who had formerly supported development of nuclear energy or had clear-cut consensus realize facts

now. The day Shoreham goes on line they must live with the potential of a nuclear catastrophe. It has the potential to drive them out of their homes, subjecting them to radioactive poisons with all their horrors.

Proponents of the refinery idea ask what's the harm in studying the proposal. But, to our knowledge and by admission of oil industry experts, there never has been a refinery that didn't change the quality of life or the economy of a region.

One of the three companies co-sponsoring this plan is LILCO which derives revenue from the rates charged its users. The rates it charges the users are based upon expenditures it incurs. Will LILCO's participation in this study be funded by the consumers of electricity, adding arguments for another rate increase?

The companies are free to conduct this study themselves. They don't need, nor should they seek out the approval of Riverhead officials. The Town Board should turn thumbs down on any participation in the study. Under no circumstances should officials allow themselves to be suckered into a position where the town's future is bound by the outcome of this study. Under no circumstances should any government municipality speaking for its people be tied to such a proposal.

And why not?

Your Vote Was Stolen

Suffolk County is the only one in the State of New York having Initiative and Referendum laws allowing voters to directly settle questions regarding the charter or the constitution.

It was under the I & R procedure we instituted the mechanism to give you, Suffolk County voters, the right to determine the form of county government you wished. We knew the procedure was filled with loopholes and traps, but felt in a democracy they could be overcome.

Our first mistake was the naive belief the current government in Suffolk operates as a democracy. Last Tuesday, the hired hand of Prince Charming Noto, Lawrence Holt, declared the duly submitted petitions invalid. Typical of the raw assumption of power of the County Legislature, Holt, who is nothing more than an aide to the Legislature, became prosecutor, judge and jury.

It is easy to see how Holt has come to believe he is the first cousin to God with Noto as his boss. But, Holt has no power or authority to even challenge the petitions at this stage, under the charter, which is the constitution of Suffolk County. Although Prince Charming Noto likes to think of himself as being co-equal to the county executive, in fact, he isn't. The bureaucracy he has built surrounding his office is a paper tiger, without power or authority other than that assumed by his feverish imagination, which is subject to court challenge.

Noto and the legislators themselves have a right to challenge the petitions and either accept them or reject them. But, to a point. They don't have

the power, nor will we let them get away with, assuming the authority to invalidate these petitions. There is nothing in the law which allows the County Legislature to do this. They can accept or reject. The law is specific. The Board of Elections only can invalidate petitions. Only the county attorney can reject legal action, based upon his constitutional powers.

This example of the raw assumption of power by Noto and company is a travesty. It ignores the residents' right to determine, in a free election, the type of government they wish. Prince Charming Noto, in essence, has told every resident in the county: You are disenfranchised, I will not permit you to vote. I have made this county my personal dictatorship, circumventing your rights as citizens and my responsibilities as legislative leader.

Having dealt you this insult, Noto has accepted the full responsibility for this issue being settled in November 1981 when he will be running for re-election with the other 17 members of the Legislature. Those of us sponsoring the move, proponents of this action, are more dedicated today, more determined than ever to bring this issue to vote.

We're fighting for the return of Suffolk government to the people. The issue next November will be simple: Do you want to have your life ruled by a dictator? Do you want responsive representatives, a fairly based form of government for decisions that affect your life and financial well-being?

And why not?

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Mid Hampton
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Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centerach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



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Why Riverhead?

The Big Three's proposal to conduct a study to justify building an oil refinery in the Town of Riverhead is fraught with suspicion.

Northville, LILCO and Grumman have far from the best record of community relations on the East End. Northville got in just under the wire with a change of zoning to construct an oil storage facility. There was speculation about how this happened.

The Northville facility has been subject in the past to some major oil spills, its trucks have been involved in major accidents. LILCO is in the process of constructing a major nuclear power plant in Shoreham, with a coal unit proposed in Riverhead. Arguments given for construction by LILCO have been less than candid, what we affectionately like to call "creative truths." LILCO's plant has the potential for a mishap to permanently affect the lives of every resident within Suffolk Life's circulation area.

Grumman has a major plant in Calverton, or we should say the Navy has a major facility at Calverton, with Grumman leasing a small part. The difference is that Riverhead and Suffolk County receive only a minute fraction of the taxes they should have from this facility.

The three companies have attempted over the years to be good neighbors. Corporately, officials have attempted to do what is right, but their first and primary concern is not for the people of Riverhead or the county. It is for their shareholders and the profits they can generate.

The Big Three spokesmen argue we need a source of domestic oil so we will no longer be dependent upon foreign oil. We hold no argument with this concept. But, creation of an oil refinery in Suffolk County won't

change our dependency on foreign oil one iota. Until the Big Three can secure the commitments and contracts for domestic oil, a study is an exercise in futility. If they can secure these, then build a refinery elsewhere to process the raw crude and transport the product here to Long Island.

Robert Tooker, a prominent Riverhead attorney, and a vocal opponent to the refinery plan, has spoken with the Industrial Commission manager from Elizabeth, N.J., the site of numerous oil refineries. According to Tooker, officials realize their land and area already is spoiled, so they welcome future refineries. Tooker said this manager offered a list of several different properties available. If land is available there, why even consider spoiling such a beautiful place as Eastern Long Island?

Most residents of Eastern Long Island live here out of choice. We have made the decision to either stay or settle here because of the uniqueness of the area. Why should we be asked to change our quality of life and environment for the sake of increasing profits for the Big Three?

The Riverhead Town Board probably will vote on whether to participate or condone a study at a July 15 meeting. Between now and then, we advise residents of Riverhead, all residents of Suffolk who care about their future, to contact the four members of the Town Board and the Town Supervisor. Their names and telephone numbers are printed below. Call them today.

And why not?

Supervisor Joe Janoski, 727-4235.
John Lombardi, 727-4970. Doc Menendez, 727-4036. Tony Regula, 727-3023. Vic Prusinowski, 727-3039.

Give Us A Choice

Republicans from 50 states will gather next week in Detroit to pick presidential and vice presidential candidates and affirm the party platform.

Ronald Reagan has the nomination sewed up for president. He won it fair and square during the primaries. Reagan's political philosophies are well in tune with those of the Republican Party. Fiscally, he is conservative; sociologically, he is moderate. His choice of running mate is the biggest question for speculation at this time.

The man that most closely emulates Reagan's political philosophies is Congressman Jack Kemp. Kemp, a former professional football player turned politician-statesman, is best known for his efforts to pass the Kemp-Roth Tax Bill. This measure is designed to balance our national budget while at the same time reduce federal taxes 10 percent per year for a total of 30 percent over three years.

Others being mentioned are of a more liberal persuasion. They include Howard Baker of Tennessee and George Bush. The argument in favor of these candidates is that they will balance the ticket, appealing to more people. Over the last three decades, with the exception of "'64," members of both parties have bent over backward to balance their tickets. They balanced them so well the candidates looked, acted and seemed the same. Voters were confused. They had no clear choice, one was as bad (or as good) as the other.

With Reagan heading the Republican ticket and almost certainly Carter on the Democratic side, the voters this year have a clear choice -- that is, so long as party professionals don't cloud the issue by selecting a liberal as a Republican vice presidential candidate and a conservative on the Democratic side. Why not give the voters of America a solid Conservative-Republican ticket versus a Liberal-Democratic team?

Let the voters have a clear cut choice between reduced taxes, reduced government and reduced spending and big taxes, big government and increased inflation.

Republicans from New York should nominate Kemp as Reagan's running mate and give the voters a clear choice.

And why not?

At The Snap Of A Finger

Underdeveloped land in Brookhaven Town has traditionally been unfairly underassessed. Reports have reached our office of parcels of land held by developers which carried only a few hundred dollars in taxes being sold for as much as \$100,000. New homes built within the past five to ten years have carried this burden. They have been overassessed, paying an unfair share of the taxes.

To correct this injustice, Brookhaven Town recently doubled the assessment on all underdeveloped parcels of land. This almost is as idiotic and unfair as the former assessment policies. You cannot reassess thousands of parcels of land with the snap of a finger without causing chaos, yet this is what the Brookhaven Town Board has accomplished with this ill-thought-out mandate.

To be frank, we have been upset and disillusioned with the Lefkowitz administration. His handling of town government has appeared, during the first six months, to be like a ship adrift at sea without a helmsman.

Lefkowitz had an outstanding record as a councilman. As supervisor, he appears to have delegated the majority of his authority to those who had been close to the former political boss, Tom Neppell. This has resulted in the town again being run for political sake with snap decisions being made to try to cover up and correct the weaknesses of the administration.

To say we are disappointed is to put it mildly. Lefkowitz and the town board should rescind their order for complete doubling of assessment on all vacant land and set about a plan to re-evaluate the worth of each individual parcel, one at a time.

They should hire the staff necessary to do this job. The increases in taxes that would be experienced from this re-evaluation will more than fund this budget allocation. They should start with the big parcels consisting of valuable acreage and industrial land, and end with the little parcels owned by resident citizens.

There are many parcels in Brookhaven Town that should not only be doubled but should be carrying 10 and 20 times the current assessment to bring them in line with their fair market value. These parcels are the ones the town should be going after. Of course, some of these parcels are the ones also owned by the speculators who contribute heavily to the political organization and the ones the boys in the back room want hands kept off of.

Lefkowitz only has eighteen months left to develop a record that he can stand on for re-election. We think he has the qualifications, but he also has to have the desire and courage to use them. We hope that Lefkowitz will take the assessment issue and show the people by doing what is right that he has the qualifications and the courage to be a good supervisor.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am pleased to take this occasion to advise you of a completely new organization in Long Island called "Consumers Union of Long Island Railroad Riders." Our organization was conceived out of desperation and born in hope.

However, we (the commuters who are starting it) are convinced that a period of steady growth for our organization is by no means assured. At this critical (beginning) stage, we are writing to your important

(great) newspaper to ask that you consider a news release about our organization, so that more commuters may know about us and where to write for free membership.

Should anyone desire further details, please write: CULIRRR, P.O. Box 46, East Patchogue, N.Y. 11772.

Sincerely,
John Cain
Secretary
CULIRRR
East Patchogue

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More, Not Less

Republican Presidential nominee Ronald Reagan, in his acceptance speech, drove home the central issue of this year's presidential campaign -- "More, not less."

Throughout his speech, he stressed the right and the responsibility of the individual to expect more from his efforts through rapid development of his country's natural resources and his improved efforts. He encouraged the country to work harder, produce more, earn more, save more and have more left over by paying less in taxes.

President Carter has told us for four years we should do with less of everything. Instead of telling the American private and business sector to go out and solve the country's problems, he encouraged us to quit, to be less productive, use less of our natural resources and pay more in taxes. Why? To continue to feed the ever-growing hog, the federal government, is his answer.

Reagan's speech was enlightening, for he appealed to every group in America. He called for a stronger military, protection of the rights of all people, all minorities. He spoke of the tremendous natural resources we have untapped. He outlined the problems facing this country and

offered workable solutions. He encouraged reduced government, the return of funds and power to state and local governments. This should be of particular interest to New York, which sends almost twice as much to Washington as currently is returned.

Also, he reminded the country a President could not do the job alone. He must have a Congress behind him, a Congress made up of people who think like he does. The 1980 election will be a classic contest between Conservative and Liberal philosophies. The public is well aware of what the Liberal philosophy has done to the government, what it has cost individually. The public itself has it in their hands to change our position in the world, reverse the adverse economic trend.

We hope in 1980 Americans in unprecedented numbers will turn out and vote for the President, senators and congressmen. First and foremost they should elect those whose philosophies are akin to their own.

A large majority will signal elected officials on the direction the people want to go, how they want the country run in the decades to come.

And why not?

LILCO Should Oppose S-WR

Shoreham-Wading River School District spends upward of \$7,000 for each student it educates. This compares with an Island-wide average of approximately \$3,000 per student compared to an Island-wide average of \$600 spent by private and parochial schools.

Shoreham-Wading River can afford to spend \$7,000 solely because it receives 90 percent of its tax funds from LILCO's Shoreham nuclear power plant. LILCO receives the money to pay this tax burden from all the ratepayers on Long Island. In effect, every LILCO customer is contributing to the Shoreham-Wading River School District and its reckless

spending policies.

The Shoreham-Wading River School District, for this huge expenditure, has failed to produce a qualified, educational product in its students. Shoreham-Wading River students are reading and doing basic math below the Island's average. This is sad.

The school system itself was severely criticized by the recent Middle State School Evaluation Program while other school districts spending less than one-half received praise for their accomplishments.

LILCO has an obligation to its customers to oppose the wanton waste of taxpayers' money at Shoreham-

Wading River. They should oppose, in court if necessary, the assessments on their plant. We believe they would have a good case to demand that Shoreham-Wading River school expenditures be brought into average with the rest of the Island.

There is no justification for the Shoreham-Wading River School District spending the kind of money they do. There is no justification for LILCO to be taxed for an educational program that is way beyond the

Shoreham-Wading River residents' ability to fund out of their own real estate taxes. Why should all LILCO customers be forced to cut back on their own school district's expenditures to make up for Shoreham-Wading River's wastefulness?

LILCO should not only protect its assessment, but sue to force the district to bring its expenditures in line with all other districts.

And why not?

Conservationist Vs. Environmentalist

We received a letter from Jay Hammond, governor of Alaska, asking us to support a bill being debated in Congress.

The Senate Energy Committee Bill, if passed, will give Alaska control over 104.5 million acres now controlled by the federal government. This was promised to the Alaskan people at the time of statehood nearly 20 years ago.

A lot is at stake. Alaskans are akin to the land. Most are conservationists anxious to see Alaska developed to serve mankind. Further, Hammond points out Alaska is rich not only in oil but other minerals badly needed by the lower 48 for the economic development and survival of the country as a whole. Opposed to Alaska gaining control of these federal lands are a combined group of environmentalists. They would prefer to stifle development of Alaska's natural resources. Their arguments range from ignorant to ridiculous.

These people would prefer to deny the human needs of the states for the sake of keeping this large area undeveloped, in a disorganized state. Their success will keep Americans dependent upon foreign oil, for one thing.

If the area is developed on a sound basis, we could achieve independence through the production of Alaskan crude. Currently, there are only seven oil rigs working in Alaska, yet they produce 13 percent of America's oil, 1.6 million barrels per day. This compares with 366 rigs in Louisiana and 806 in Texas. The plains of Alaska

are rich in minerals we currently buy from foreign countries. These foreign purchases weaken the dollar, resulting in more inflation, putting us at the mercy of small nations.

Alaskans don't want their land raped. They wish to develop their natural resources under a safe plan that meets realistic conservation purposes. They seek a balance between environmental protection and rational exploration and development. The energy bill doubles the size of the United States national park system, and triples current acreage under a wilderness designation.

The bill simply gives Alaskans the right to control their own state. You can bet if the same situation applied here on Long Island we would be screaming home rule, demanding the right to determine and manage our own future. The Senate Energy Bill is a compromise between realistic use of land and materials and preservation of the land and its resources for future generations.

It is imperative the Senate Energy Bill be passed. The world situation concerning petroleum products mandates achieving oil independence. Alaska is the answer.

We urge you to contact Sen. Jacob Javitz and Sen. Pat Moynihan. Ask that they act favorably on this matter. Alaska may be halfway around the world, but what happens there seriously will affect Suffolk County and the rest of the United States. Write or call today.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have read a great deal in Suffolk Life regarding the question of the creation of Peconic County, and thought before the Legislature ends its work that you have the perspective of one who is familiar with the issue and supportive of Peconic County.

I do believe that there is a need for the creation of Peconic County for a variety of reasons. From my years of traveling through Suffolk County and as a result of my summer and winter residences in Hampton Bays, I have learned that there are substantial differences between the two areas of Suffolk County. In my opinion this does dictate some type of split between the East and West End especially in these times of rising costs.

I also feel that the eastern towns are faced with different issues and problems than are the western towns, and I believe that the joint problems of the two should not be forced on

each other.

The Peconic County legislation will not be moving at the 1980 session because of the fact that up to now we have not been presented with enough hard data to take the chance of moving this legislation without tremendous upheaval not only in Suffolk County but throughout the state. I believe that we need more backup material to support the possible creation of this new county and that that material has yet to be forthcoming.

I have had some discussions on this subject with an official of an adjoining town, not part of the eastern towns, and that individual expressed sympathy and support. I think Peconic County will in time become a reality and it will have my strong personal support.

Very truly yours,
Arthur J. Kremer
Member of Assembly

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When Did You Stop Beating Your Wife?

There is no proper way to answer this question for the question is phrased to entrap and entice.

Long Island Lighting Co., that wonderful, credible, firm which brings us our source of power, recently released results of a survey with those type questions. LILCO polled approximately 200 Riverhead residents. They asked in substance: "Would you be opposed to an oil refinery, if it could be constructed so as not to effect the ecology, and would reduce your real estate taxes and increase the economic bar on Long Island." Hell! Even I would have said yes. That's like asking, are you for motherhood, the Boy Scouts and apple pie. It's amazing only 55 per cent of Riverhead residents answered yes.

Instead of being heartened by the survey, LILCO's Board of Directors should be alarmed. For what 45 per cent of the people are saying to LILCO is: "We don't trust you, we don't believe you. We have no reason to believe you would tell us the truth now." Instead of attempting to con the public into supporting an ill-conceived oil refinery on the East End, LILCO agents should work on re-establishing their credibility with their captive customers.

As we have editorialized before, LILCO and its customers are in a

partnership. It's customers have no choice. But, as long as this alliance is there, LILCO should start telling its customers the truth. All should work to mutually rebuild Long Island to its place of prominence.

One of the single most important reasons Long Island's economy is suffering is LILCO's charge for electrical power. It's the second highest in the nation. These charges force productive industry with good-paying jobs to leave the area to remain competitive with the rest of the industry.

So far, LILCO's attempts to find alternate sources of energy have been designed to increase gross revenues and net profits. Under Public Service Commission rules, the more a utility spends, the more net profits it is legally entitled to earn. Is this an incentive for productivity or cost effectiveness? LILCO people should be thinking of the customers and stockholders.

Instead of concocting a phony survey designed to create an illusion, management should be looking at the real figures. More than an illusion is needed to benefit both Long Island industry and residents, both. LILCO is part of the Island.

And why not?

Picking Our Pockets Again

Once again the boys in Albany have come up with a deal that primarily is designed to help New York City and immediate environs but will cost Suffolk County residents, particularly on the East End.

The state's new vehicle inspection-maintenance program, effective as of January 1, 1981, carries a \$12 fee, representing in some cases a 300 per cent increase. Station owners who are licensed motor vehicle inspectors must make an investment of nearly

\$6,000 in computerized equipment by the end of this year if they wish to continue offering that service. Many, of course, won't.

But what disturbs us is that the goal of the program is to enforce stricter emission inspections in the New York Metropolitan area. The program is imposed only on the Nassau-Suffolk-Rockland-Westchester county areas. In deciding to do this, state officials, in their "infinite" wisdom, took Suffolk County air samples from

Babylon, only 22 miles from New York City. We seriously question whether this is any criteria for the East End especially. Why should Riverhead, Southold, Southampton, Shelter Island and East Hampton be lumped in this category?

We are happy that the County Legislature has gone on record in opposition to this move, joining Assemblyman John Behan, who is opposing inclusion of the East End, in particular. As Behan points out, Putnam County, only 35 miles from New York, is exempt. Behan assuredly is right in insisting that "arbitrary" standards were used to include Suffolk County.

We have no quarrel with clean air. But, the quality is good in Suffolk County. With all the cost increases pressing down on the beleaguered car owner and average station owner, for example, why make things harder? It's unfair in Suffolk County. We strongly support an Assembly proposal to exempt counties 75 miles or more away from the city.

Like the proposal for an additional gas tax to help support New York transportation, we feel this fee idea also unjustly penalizes the county. It should be fought.

And there is more to be considered. Last summer, there were problems with gasoline being sold to motorists. Motorists weren't always getting unleaded gasoline when they paid for it. This equipment isn't going to solve this problem. Along this line, Gov. Hugh Carey's brother, with Vantage Corp., has been under investigation for various practices, allegedly questionable. This hasn't ever been pushed to the fullest extent, it seems to us. Was Vantage selling gasoline under false pretenses (or rating) so to speak? Again we repeat, machines won't solve this.

And lastly, questions have been raised about the reliability of the actual equipment. Such issues, we think, should be answered before the state goes any further (And without the East End).

And why not?

The Right Direction

Last year, Brookhaven Republicans based their campaign around the theme "Brookhaven was the tax capital of the nation."

Obviously a lot of voters were convinced the GOP could do something about it. Republicans won control of the supervisor's seat and the Town Board. But, during the first six months on the job, the public well might believe their statements were nothing more than campaign rhetoric. The board, under the Republicans, introduced new spending programs and hired additional help. But the first break came last week, when Supervisor Joel Lefkowitz announced the Town would eliminate 13 positions, saving approximately \$350,000. With a freeze on all new hiring, and by attrition, officials hope to eliminate another 70 employees during the next year.

The first 13 positions are management and mid-management, commanding relatively high salaries. These positions usually are the last to go in a cut back. It's normally the low paid workers who bear the brunt of an economic move. The Brookhaven Town Board commendably has realized the plight of the taxpayers. We don't know exactly what woke them up, possibly the potential budget deficit estimated to run into the millions of dollars. Maybe it was the alarming rate of foreclosures in Brookhaven that are turning what had been nice developments into

boarded up slums.

If the board persists in attacking the cost of government, there is a chance the budget can be brought into line. Then there would be no need to increase real estate taxes in the near future.

The real offender in the cost of real estate taxes is the educational system. School district leaders should follow the board's example. School taxes account for 65 to 70 per cent of the real estate tax bill. Yet, school board members and school administrators seem to have the notion there is no bottom to the barrel.

This year most budgets contained increases from five to 20 per cent. Officials of special districts, towns and the county can cut back on their expenditures, but this will have little effect on the final tax bill, unless school officials do the same. Classes should be enlarged, special programs cut, and costly administration eliminated to bring school budgets in line.

We hope other town officials on Long Island follow the lead of Brookhaven and look at their budgets; trim out programs that duplicate county and state efforts and check other areas where expenditures can be cut without affecting services. Unless we want to end up with Long Island as a ghost town, we must bring the cost of living in line with the average person's pocketbook.

And why not?

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SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.
NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.
ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

County Executive Peter Cohalan's recent proposals for protecting the environment in Suffolk County are welcome indeed. It is refreshing to see the County Executive place a high value on the protection of our precious environment.

My only regret was that he didn't say anything about the dumping of toxic wastes. With residents of Hauppauge faced with a

potential "Love Canal," I think that the issue of toxic wastes is one which should be addressed.

Sincerely,
Tony Korec
Bohemia

Editor's Note: His report covered toxic wastes also.

When Clean Air Stinks

The controversy surrounding the State Motor Vehicle Department's mandate requiring all cars in the downstate metropolitan area to be checked for emission standards stinks to high heaven.

The State, acting by decree of the federal Environmental Association, has mandated all inspection stations, mostly Mom and Pop operations, to buy a piece of test equipment that will cost these businessmen almost \$6,000. In addition, these small businessmen must pay a service contract fee of \$100 per month for five years. Further, isn't it suspicious the State has mandated only one machine can be used for these tests? Many inspection station owners are asking why a single firm was selected. Who are the stockholders and under what circumstances did the State give an exclusive franchise for these machines?

The inspection fee to customers will go from \$3 to \$12, a 300 percent increase. Whatever happened to the Presidential guidelines on prices? In discussions with inspection station owners, they candidly admit there isn't a car that is going to leave their facilities with an inspection sticker before spending between \$40 and \$50. These inspection station owners maintain they are going to need this kind of gross to pay for this mandated machine, plus service and operational costs.

What has not been discussed is the fact almost every car will flunk the test. For the last five years all new cars have been equipped with catalytic converters. They are supposed to eliminate much of the noxious waste created by gas engines. They require the owner of the car to use lead-free gasoline.

Last year, during the manufactured gasoline shortage, people bought

anything that resembled gas. Many people thought they had bought lead-free gas, but actually put leaded gasoline into their tank. Two loads of this and the catalytic converter is destroyed, according to car manufacturers. The car runs just as well, but the converter does not work. As a result, the automobile wouldn't meet environmental standards being measured by the state-ordered machine.

Owners of such vehicles will face a \$12 inspection fee plus other normal charges. But further, in order to legally drive their vehicles, they will end up being forced to install a new catalytic system costing between \$300 and \$800. We fear there will be many illegally registered cars on the road driven by normally law-abiding citizens. The situation surrounding the auto emission law stinks. It has from the day the Environmental Protection Agency mandated Detroit install catalytic converters. It still stinks. These converters add upward of \$500 to the cost of the car. They reduce mileage an estimated 2 to 5 miles per gallon. They also are dangerous. Heat generated from the units have caused fires.

The only thing that seems certain is some politicians and others connected with them are going to get awful rich off the hides of small businessmen and the general public, with the new rules. If Gov. Hugh Carey doesn't intervene personally and put a halt to this scandal, we foresee problems bigger than Watergate for him in the future. Carey would be wise to suspend the State's participation and order a thorough investigation into this situation. But then again, the issues might hit too close to home for him.

And why not?

themselves, to pick candidates. They can disregard or support the designation of their party's screening committee. Primaries are healthy for they have a tendency to bring to the public the issues. Voters are given a much better opportunity to scrutinize candidates and determine their political philosophies, their positions on issues.

We will start this year's 1980 elections coverage with staff interviews of the candidates. In addition, we will give each candidate an opportunity to be interviewed by our editorial board. We hope this will aid you in making a proper selection on Sept. 9.

And why not?

The Present We Want Most

We are rapidly coming to the conclusion of our 19th year of publishing Suffolk Life.

For almost two decades, we have brought to your home news, opinions and a world of shopping information. We have enjoyed it. It has been hard work; at times it has been very rewarding, though difficult. Over these 19 years we have made various appeals to you, our readers, to pay for your subscription. Many of you have heeded this appeal and your support has helped us grow, become a better newspaper. Other readers have been reluctant to pay for a newspaper they felt they were getting free.

But, for 15 out of its 19 years, Suffolk Life has not been free. We have

operated on a voluntary pay basis. The difference in paid-in-advance and voluntarily paid is simple: a paid-in-advance newspaper you receive after you pay for your subscription. As a voluntarily paid paper, we send you our newspaper every week, hoping you will like it enough to honor our request and pay for it during the year.

The subscription price is only \$4.99. This small fee entitles you to home delivery every week for less than a dime per edition. As we end our 19th year of publication, won't you sit down and send us a check for \$4.99 so we may close out our year knowing you feel Suffolk Life is worthwhile, of value to you? Our sincerest thanks.

And why not?

Suffolk Life Subscription Bill

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Name _____

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Please renew my subscription to Suffolk Life for 1980
- Enclosed is my \$4.99

Send to SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS
Box 262 Westhampton, N.Y. 11977

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I don't often write letters to the editor, but after your last editorial regarding the study of the feasibility of an oil refinery I could no longer restrain myself.

I am very perplexed at the attitudes of so many people who know nothing about refineries, criticizing the proposal before anything is known or analyzed. It is very disturbing to hear you editorialize about the lack of opportunity for our young offspring here in our area and the need for more industry, and now, when there is a possibility of having additional industry, you immediately condemn it without even investigating its advantages and how much they have been improved over the years.

You refer to the refineries in New Jersey as models of how we visualize them to be; however, those are the old type that were constructed many years ago. The new refineries are entirely different. I visited one of the newest refineries several years ago in Freeport in the Bahamas and it was so clean and unobtrusive none of us even knew it was a refinery until we were informed of the fact by our tour guide.

Also, you state that it has no place in a resort area. Apparently you have never been to the Islands of Aruba or Curacao in the Caribbean. These are two of the most popular resorts in that area and each has several oil refineries. It does not seem to defer the tourists from flocking to these islands each year.

I think we should not condemn any industrial proposals for our community until we have thoroughly analyzed each one and weigh its assets against its liabilities before making such important decisions. I hope we will all react in a more rational manner in the future and wait until all the facts are presented before making any decisions.

Yours truly,
Ed Goodfield
Riverhead

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Just read your editorial, "The Missing \$2,400." and I agree the difference in cost per pupil is great. However, if you wish the avoidance of what you call "half truths" let's not use the scholastic achievement tests and say the difference in favor of the parochial school is alarming.

I would imagine that any private school can be selective in choosing their students. If so, I'm sure they take the cream of the crop, which is not the case for the public school.

Let's report the whole truth, and why not? Sincerely,
William G. Albertson

Editor's Note: Most of the private schools are of a parochial nature. They draw their students from the ranks of the religion they subscribe to. I know of no religion made up of elitists -- do you?

Primaries Underway

Political campaigns normally start well after Labor Day. This year, they are heating up earlier, as there are several important primary races throughout the county.

Suffolk Life will cover these primaries in detail. We believe the primary system is the very foundation of good government. Primaries allow registered voters,

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