

## A Sad Fourth

The Fourth of July traditionally is a time for us to celebrate the foundation of our country. The wonderful contract between every American born and its government, the constitution. The freedom to choose the form of government we want and the leaders we want to administer it.

This year it is sad because of the actions of one of our elected leaders, Peter Fox Cohalan. In our government we select our leaders in free elections. During the pre-election period, our leaders expose themselves to the public, tell of their convictions, their beliefs and make firm promises that voters base their decisions upon.

Two years ago in the county executive race, Pat Halpin, the Democratic candidate, took a firm stance to open Shoreham. Peter Cohalan, the Republican candidate, took a firm stance to oppose the opening of Shoreham because of its construction, the management of LILCO and the impossibility of a safe evacuation.

Cohalan had spent close to \$1 million of our money to develop an

evacuation plan. During the development of that evacuation plan, it became very apparent to Cohalan, the Suffolk County Legislature and the State of New York that a safe evacuation could not be developed for Long Island. Cohalan said at that time, "my constitutional obligation is to the safety, health and welfare of the public I wish to serve. I cannot, I will not allow this plant to open."

In a free election we went to the polls believing Cohalan, and elected him our county executive. Cohalan reneged on his promise and his pledge. He went back on his word. He betrayed the public. He sold out his constituency. Cohalan holds the highest office in Suffolk County and what an example he has made of this office!

When people say, "Why should I vote?," they only have to give Cohalan as an excuse. What kind of argument can you give in opposition?

A sad day it is on this Fourth when we have such an example of failed democracy as the head of Suffolk County government.

And why not?

## Time For Prudence

After the county executive betrayed the public and capitulated to the financial interests controlling LILCO, the utility paid its delinquent taxes. This payment corrected the imbalance in Suffolk County's financial position already impacted by an increase in the sales tax to bail out the Southwest Sewer District, and an increase in real estate taxes to bail out the county executive's mismanagement of fiscal affairs in the county. Without the payment of LILCO's delinquent taxes, the county executive was threatening an increase of 1% in the sales tax and a substantial increase in real estate

taxes to make up for LILCO's bad debt.

It is foolish and imprudent to now act as if everything is financially sound; to continue on with the imprudent and wasteful spending policies of the past. It was Cohalan's giveaway to the county employees of increases in salaries up to 76% that caused the financial dilemma. This, compounded with a wanton disregard for the taxpayers' ability to fund the wild-eyed schemes of Cohalan and Company, nearly brought Suffolk County to its financial knees.

The check from LILCO has hardly

cleared and Cohalan, Koppelman and Company have again resumed their imprudent, wasteful ways. They have proposed, for legislative approval, a whole host of land acquisitions for park land. Bits and pieces of land from most legislative districts that are more designed to appease special interest groups than to logically fill in our park lands. The county currently has thousands of acres acquired for park land purposes. A good portion of this inventory is undeveloped and of little or no use to the public. Vast tracts are posted with no trespassing signs. The public is forbidden to hunt, fish, walk or even just venture upon these lands to enjoy what it owns and is paying for. Why add more?

Even though LILCO has paid its back taxes, we should not count on their paying them in the future. LILCO can withhold their taxes any-

time they feel like it, or need to. They can withhold their taxes as blackmail, as they did in the past. They can withhold them because the company itself has gone bankrupt because of its imprudent management. They can withhold them if they fail to get a license to open Shoreham. They can withhold them if the plant malfunctions and is not allowed to operate. We can't count on LILCO for our future, and most assuredly we should not be financing our future based upon the premise of taxes on the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. To do so is pure imprudence, a dereliction of management duties.

Cohalan has made a fool out of himself in betraying the public on moral, ethical and safety grounds. He should not continue in being a buffoon and screwing up our finances by further imprudence.

And why not?

## Blind Justice At The Bar

The Suffolk County Bar Association is a lawyers club. Pompous, sanctimonious and, according to Chief Surrogate Ernest Signorelli, without ethics or morals.

Signorelli was elected ten years ago as Chief Surrogate of Suffolk County. The Surrogate's Court is the court that adjudicates wills, estates and assigns guardians for those who are found incompetent to handle their own affairs. Signorelli earned an enviable reputation for the expeditious manner he handled the affairs of the court. Justice swift, expedient and economical. He didn't put up with lawyers who procrastinated and attempted to milk estates by building in needless hours and dragging settlements on ad infinitum. He didn't play games with the club house boys.

Republican Leader Michael Blake and Peter Cohalan were upset that patronage was not coming through headquarters. So they decided to try and get rid of Signorelli. They recruited Ken Rohl to run against Signorelli, and railroaded his nomination through the nominating convention. They appointed Cohalan's father to be Rohl's campaign manager, hoping that the luster that Cohalan had before his Shoreham betrayal would rub off on Rohl.

The Suffolk County Bar Association, which we have criticized before, screened the candidates. According to Signorelli, the committee was made up of known Rohl associates. One was his former campaign manager, another a former co-committeeman of Rohl. Signorelli asked, prior to the screening, that they be removed from the committee because of their apparent conflict and potential bias. He was assured that they would be removed. The screening was held, the votes were taken, the pro-Rohl supporters, according to Signorelli, were allowed to vote. Rohl, who has no experience as a Surrogate, was found "highly qualified," while Signorelli

and his other opponent were found "qualified."

The Signorelli situation brought back memories of how the bar association handled another one of their own, Joe O'Donnell, a Democratic District Court Judge. O'Donnell felt that it was an injustice for attorneys to show up late for court, keeping everyone waiting, or to fail to notify those involved in requested postponements. He established a policy whereby attorneys who appeared late in his court without good explanation, or who failed to notify all parties concerned about cancellations that they had requested, were to be fined for their insensitivity and arrogance. After adequate warning, he enforced the policy. The attorneys did not like being fined for their rudeness, so the club withheld their endorsement from O'Donnell when he ran for re-election. O'Donnell no longer is a judge, which is a travesty of justice.

Like O'Donnell, Signorelli has tried to protect the public from abuses by attorneys and he is being punished for being people-orientated. Candidates for judicial posts should be screened by unbiased citizens. Lawyers from all political persuasions should be represented, but the majority of the screening committee should be made up of citizens who depend upon the justice system for fairness and equality.

Our current system of screening and selecting judges stinks. It perpetuates what is wrong with the justice system and does little to encourage the average citizen to believe in his government.

Signorelli will run a Republican primary against Rohl. The rank and file Republican can either accept or reject the party's leadership and decide for themselves whether they want the justice system run out of the court, or out of Republican political headquarters.

And why not?

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NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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## The Fuse Is Lit

It is somehow ironical that the headlines on July 4, 1985, screamed the news that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had given its blessing for the Shoreham nuclear power plant in the form of a low power license which will permit the Long Island Lighting Company to contaminate the plant as it begins initial testing. This specific plant could well turn out to be the biggest firecracker-or dud-- that the NRC has mishandled.

It is ironical, too, because on this day that marks the anniversary of our declaration of freedom from governmental tyranny, we the people have had imposed upon us a classic example of bureaucratic arrogance that has thrust aside the welfare of the public in favor of the financial interests of the nuclear industry.

The NRC's decision to permit low power tests at Shoreham--thereby starting the clock on decommissioning costs now estimated at \$150 million, but destined to go much higher--comes as no surprise. From the moment the application was first filed by LILCO until the NRC approved low power, the NRC has done everything in its power to put Shoreham on line. It prevented discussion about the key issue still remaining--a safe evacuation--until the plant was built, even though it did not have the legal authority to make such a decision, according to a federal court ruling last year. And now, even though the Suffolk County Legislature and the State of New York oppose the plant based on the fact that a safe evacuation is not possible, the NRC declares it feels these governments will someday, in some way, participate in evacuation efforts. That's arrogance at its worst. It's playing games with the public's safety just as the NRC did in the beginning.

From the start it's been money first, and safety last. LILCO, which has invested almost \$5 billion in the plant thus far, has refused to weigh the consequences and the possible

loss of life an inadequate evacuation attempt would cause against the loss of their financial investment. Not surprisingly, the money issue has outweighed the human issue in the LILCO boardrooms. LILCO has continually persisted in its attempts to open the unneeded and unwanted plant, and now has brought itself to the point where it is willing to gamble another \$150 million on this ill-conceived, mismanaged project. We have heard many times that the thinking at LILCO is to contaminate the plant, bring it up to 5 per cent power, and the state will be forced to take over the project and LILCO's self-made problems will come to an end. To the management at LILCO, they're only gambling money, and money is no object when it comes to LILCO and its nuclear plant. When the diesel generators cracked apart, LILCO Vice-President Ira Freilicher was heard to comment: "What's another \$200 million in the context of Shoreham." That, unfortunately, has been the attitude that has prevailed at LILCO during the 20 year fiasco known as Shoreham, and which still continues today.

Now the fuse is lit at Shoreham. With the facility now contaminated with radiation, LILCO and its allies, which now includes County Executive Peter F. Cohalan, will insist that since the plant is radiated, we must go ahead with an evacuation plan, even though it will not, and cannot, provide a safe evacuation for everyone. Cohalan's turnabout on Shoreham was the one excuse the NRC needed to give its approval for low power. His switch was cited by the NRC in its approval order. His betrayal of the people is now complete.

Before Shoreham can get approval for full power operation, it must gain approval for an evacuation plan. There will be attempts to hold a "drill" which will be nothing more than a scam, moving people around on paper but not in reality. Suffolk Life will examine that drill as closely

as possible. We do not intend to sit calmly by while LILCO, the NRC or any of the pro-Shoreham people play make-believe games with the safety of the people. We urge everyone to become as fully informed as they possibly can on this issue. Be informed and be involved. That which is under discussion will be your safety, your future.

Let your legislators know that you will not accept anything but a safe, proven, evacuation plan for all of the people, not just some. If there is just

one shred of doubt about safe evacuation for everyone, we must prevent a fake plan from being thrust down our throats. Let them know that if they cave in, as Cohalan did, their political futures are at an end. If you have done nothing before, do it now because the fuse has been lit, and our future is in jeopardy.

The time is now for you to act, and for our legislators to stand firm on behalf of the safety of the people.

And why not?

## Help The Volunteers

During July and August, the local volunteers who man our fire departments and ambulance corps will approach the community soliciting contributions for their respective organizations. Some of these solicitations will take place in the form of direct mail letters, door-to-door drives, carnivals, bazaars and barbecues.

The volunteers are those people who stand ever ready to help you, their neighbors, in your time of need. Not only are they ever vigilant, they are well trained, having spent hundreds of hours learning the best and proper way to save your life and your belongings in case of tragedy.

The funds they raise go to improving the volunteers' quality of life. They support their activities, in some cases their training and the things they wish to sponsor, such as Little League teams, bands, tournament teams and other community activities. These funds allow the various departments to have social lives, dinners and dances and family

outings, as a pay back for many hours these people give up from their families in service to the community.

When you are approached to give, please give generously. Keep in mind that the volunteers who are asking for a contribution have given up a portion of their life, and have many times deliberately placed their life in danger so yours can be saved. It doesn't mean as much to a volunteer to receive a contribution after they have been of service as it does to receive a contribution in recognition from their neighbors and friends before they are called upon.

If your department is asking for a direct contribution, make it. If they are sponsoring a carnival go, enjoy the festivities, play the games. If they are having a barbecue and you can't get there, buy the tickets and tell them it is a contribution because you appreciate what they are doing for you. Let's make every fund-raising drive go over the top this year.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

Some time ago I wrote to you for information or advice or whatever - about stopping the politicians from giving themselves raises in the \$9000.00 per year range. Also to put a limit on their expense accounts and "free-bees." I was looking for a way to put controls on all politicians from the President of the U.S.A. down to the smallest town official. They are supposed to be PUBLIC SERVANTS not our RULERS and DICTATORS.

A few months ago there was a letter in your column on that very subject dealing with N.Y. State Senators and Assemblymen. Mr. Mark A. Dunlea - 221 Central Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12206 - has a committee against legislative pay increases. I wrote to Mr. Dunlea and he sent me a petition to get as many signatures as possible in order to try to do something about this matter. I am enclosing a copy of that petition. Can you/will you print a reproduction of this petition in your paper and urge the taxpayers/citizens/all interested persons to sign it or at least write to their legislators to remember the seniors citizens - the handicapped - the sick and the poor and to stop cutting back on medicare, medicaid, disability, social security, etc., while stuffing their own already bulging pockets. Let the senators, assemblymen and ALL politicians rescind their raises (or at least reduce them) and increase social security and other NECESSARY BENEFITS to the NEEDY PEOPLE OF AMERICA - THE AVERAGE CITIZEN - NOT THE RICH ALREADY.

Concerned Citizen

### Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have to write to you to vent my fears concerning the recent events pertaining to

the Shoreham Plant.

It seems like our esteemed Peter Cohalan may be playing some unfavorable games with our future as the stakes. Why is he meeting, behind closed doors, with the very people we are against? Why have discussions about how we, the ratepayers, are going to pay for something we are not now, or maybe never, going to use.

It crossed my mind, that if "The Big Boys" ventured into buying LILCO stock at less than \$6.00 per share, and then by some mysterious manner the Plant should open, somebody would be in a spot to make a Hell of a Lot of Money!!! I'm not saying this could happen. Or could it?? It's not too long ago a President of these our United States, looked us right in the eye and adamantly stated "I am not a Crook".

Well, we all know that was a lot of Bull. It seems that History has a tendency of repeating itself, especially in the political field. I hope not in this Shoreham disaster to happen. .1463 cents per K.W.H. is way out of line now, but why would anyone care if they made a bundle, if the stock went up?

Come on Peter, keep your promise to the people, and have a clear conscience.

Name withheld

### Dear Mr. Willmott:

Short and sweet: the conceit of LILCO has been overshadowed by the deceit of Mr. Cohalan.

I am against Shoreham in any form--considering the record--and will argue my views in the full against its proponents, and in favor of its opponents.

Please keep up the fight!

Gordon P. Brunow  
Mattituck

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David J. Willmott, Editor

## First Blood at Shoreham

LILCO sustained its first accident at the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant during low power testing last week.

LILCO does not like to call the situation an accident, they prefer to use the term incident. This does not change the fact that one of LILCO's employees who, they have told us, are the best trained in the world, turned the wrong valve, creating a safety hazard.

What would have happened if the plant had been running at full power and this LILCO employee made the mistake? Those who cared enough to look into the scenario concerning the Three Mile accident well remember that it was another "well-trained" utility employee who turned the valve in panic that he was not supposed to turn. Fortunately for mankind, his turning of this valve by mistake increased the water flow and saved Three Mile Island from total calamity. If he had not turned this valve within an hour the plant would have suffered a total melt down, the worst kind of accident, and become the one accident in 100,000 years that could not happen, but almost did, after only 61 days of commercial operation.

No matter how well a nuclear power plant has been designed, no matter how many scientists and engineering safeguards have been built-in, nuclear power plants are subject to human error and control.

As we all know, because of a hard night's drinking, a fight with ones spouse, a sick child or a whole host of other reasons, human judgement can be impaired.

## Second Blood at S'ham

Only a few days after the first incident, second blood was drawn at Shoreham. This time not human miscalculation, nor ignorance, but a breakdown in the plant. At less than

2% power, the system vibrated so violently that a connection broke on a pipe, impairing the cooling system.

The mechanical safeguard systems, two out of the five, went into action and automatically shut down the plant. No one seems to know why; in fact, they are now debating whether the system should have shut down the plant. The fact of the matter is that in less than five days we have had two accidents at Shoreham. LILCO claims that neither one released any radiation, but then again, who believes anything LILCO tells us.

The N.R.C. is not much better. They have claimed throughout the Shoreham scenario they can only check on less than 1% of the design and the construction of this plant. In their quest to open the plant they have bent their own rules, and made rules up as they went along to accommodate their objective of opening this plant at any cost.

We have asked for an independent, outside evaluation throughout the entire design and construction phase of the Shoreham scenario. LILCO has refused to allow outside scrutiny in the past. It was this refusal of independent inspection that led to the break between the county and LILCO. We believe now, with the plant being tested at low power, the people have a right to have an outside, independent staff of inspectors inside the plant, observing and recording all that happens.

We recommend highly that the county and the state insist upon representation within the plant - using the talent of the firms that they have engaged to develop information on the plant during the construction stages, such as The Union of Concerned Scientists and M.H.B. These firms have competent experts who have worked in the field of nuclear engineering. They know a good plant

from a bad one, and have proven that they are willing to go out on a limb to speak the truth, which is something of a rare commodity in the nuclear industry. We should not waste any

time in insisting on independent inspection by knowledgeable experts during the critical testing period. And why not?

## Hiding Dirty Money

We have been critical in the past of the tendency for the New York State Senate to become the burying grounds for legislation designed to benefit the public. The leadership of the Republican-controlled Senate has successfully bottled up legislation which is objectionable to Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, keeping it in committee to prevent the full membership of the Senate from voting on the merits of the bill. Anderson has successfully bottled up important legislation concerning energy, primarily because he wants Shoreham on line first. And he has now been able to keep bottled up a bill that would go a long way toward stifling political corruption.

Stalled in the Senate is a bill which recently passed in the State Assembly, a bill that would prevent political parties from hiding campaign contributions in "housekeeping" accounts. That bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick G. Halpin (D-Lindenhurst) closes a loophole in the State Election Law that allows town, county and state political party committees to receive contributions and not disclose them.

According to Halpin, "Tens of thousands of dollars--and in some cases, hundreds of thousands of dollars--are channeled by political parties through these housekeeping accounts each year." During a debate on the bill in the Assembly, Halpin told his colleagues how the Babylon Town Republican Committee hid from the public more than \$40,000 in political contributions from garbage carters in their 1983 housekeeping account. Halpin said that "a party spokesman admitted that this was done because the contributors had reached the legal limit for giving to the Republican Town Committee's regular campaign account, which is subject to full disclosure."

Halpin pointed to reports that the New York State Republican Committee has put more than \$260,000 in political contributions in their housekeeping account.

And in Brookhaven Town, while former Town Councilman Steven Burke was on trial for receiving a bribe, which he claimed was a political contribution, he noted the existence of a "slush fund" that would accommodate such contributions. Burke, who was cleared of the charge, told Suffolk Life that slush fund was the town committee's housekeeping account.

Halpin points out: "When the campaign financial standards were

enacted back in 1974, a little realized loophole in the law allowed political committees with housekeeping accounts--used to pay the political party's day-to-day expenses--to spend this money without making public where it came from or where it's going." This provision, he said, was intended to allow flexibility in keeping track of non-campaign expenses but, instead, has become a dumping ground for unreported funds.

The bill which passed in the Assembly, but is stalled in the Senate, brings these housekeeping accounts under the same full disclosure requirements that all other political campaign committees must comply with. For accounts totaling more than \$5,000 in any calendar year, the committee would be required to file reports itemizing such contributions.

"I think it is appalling that the Republican-controlled Senate has not embraced this bill," Halpin declares. "After all, this bill does not affect the honest, hardworking candidate whose only desire is to represent the people. It applies to those unprincipled politicians who have something to hide."

We agree with Halpin. It is appalling that the Republicans in the Senate have ignored a bill that would go a long way toward removing some of the political corruption that continues to plague the world of politics.

It is a fact of political life that the party in power becomes a magnet for questionable campaign contributions. Many of these contributions come from groups, or industries, with a vested interest in legislation they seek approved or rejected. Anyone who says these contributions are not designed to "buy" the outcome sought is simply not being truthful. And anyone who wants to keep such contributions hidden is admitting that legislative actions can be purchased for campaign dollars.

If you feel, as we do, that a hidden campaign contribution is nothing more than dirty money that pollutes governmental action, you might want to contact your New York State senator and ask why he is permitting the bill to remain bottled up in the Senate. You might tell your senator that unless he takes a forceful position to gain favorable action in the Senate--despite the wishes of the Senate leadership--you can only assume he, too, is hiding something and that you will act accordingly in the future.

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<b>Main &amp; General Office</b>	<b>News Office</b>	<b>Classified Office</b>
<b>369-0800</b>	<b>369-0810</b>	<b>369-0820</b>



## Throwing the Game?

The battle over the Shoreham nuclear power plant has taken many strange twists and turns over the years, but none stranger than the actions of County Executive Peter F. Cohalan nor more complicated because of his sudden switch to the side of LILCO. Cohalan has lost every legal battle over his turnabout except one—the firing of the Washington law firm which has represented the county in its fight against Shoreham—and it is that one decision, which will be appealed—that could affect the final outcome.

Cohalan's one legal victory could turn out to be the most important because it effectively, if upheld, removes from the Shoreham fight a law firm that has recorded victory after victory in the long struggle against the controversial plant opposed by a majority of Suffolk's residents. If the Suffolk County Legislature is not successful in rehiring, on its own, this firm—a move that Cohalan has vetoed—the county attorney's office would represent the county's position. More accurately stated, he would represent the county executive's position. That would mean, tragically, putting LILCO in charge of the legal fight against Shoreham, for Cohalan and LILCO are in the same corner since Cohalan flip-flopped on the issue.

LILCO and the county attorney's office worked side-by-side, arm-in-arm in the legal battle and appeals over Cohalan's executive order, which would have the county work with LILCO in holding a sham evacuation drill. In fact, according to a representative of the county attorney's office, LILCO did the research for the executive order which heralded Cohalan's sell-out of the public. Cohalan lost those battles.

Even as Cohalan has lost all integrity because of his actions, so has the county attorney's office. County Attorney Martin Ashare, not too long before the big Cohalan switch, was quoted as saying if Shoreham went on line, Suffolk could well be the site

of a major nuclear accident. His anti-nuclear stance was well known and seemingly firm. When Cohalan switched, so did Ashare, who got his current position because of his friendship with the county executive. Asked about his previous position, Ashare said that as a result of new information he had read, he had changed his position. He could not identify the new information, however, stating he had been "reading so much."

Some evidence of what lies ahead if Ashare is in control of the county's legal fight against Shoreham can be found in an NRC document dated June 18, 1985. That document, a Memorandum and Order by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board, notes that the county's Washington law firm of Kirkpatrick and Lockhart had filed a motion of a stay of the effectiveness of the NRC's approval of a low power license for Shoreham. It also notes receipt of a Notice of Appeal and Request for a Stay filed by Ashare on behalf of the county. "The county attorney goes on to request that we disregard the stay motion previously filed on the county's behalf by Kirkpatrick and Lockhart for the reason that that firm no longer represents the county in this proceeding," the memorandum adds.

The NRC Appeals Board noted it would accept both documents, the first from Kirkpatrick and Lockhart and the one from the county attorney, because of the confusion as to who truly represented the county. But the board then summarily denied the county attorney's stay request because "...the county attorney did not even attempt to address in his motion the four criteria which must be considered by us in determining whether to grant or deny an application for a stay."

Note those words: The county attorney "DID NOT EVEN ATTEMPT" to address the four criteria which was vital to his request. Why? Was it simply sloppy legal work?

Inefficiency? Or deliberate? Did the county attorney's office hope to succeed? Or fail?

Certainly LILCO did not want a stay. And would have argued against it if Ashare's request had not been defective. Could it be that LILCO, which had been involved all along in Cohalan's big switch, also advised the county attorney's office on the request for a stay?

The four criteria, by the way, are important, especially the last if the taxpayer-supported county attorney's office is truly representing the public: "(1) Whether the moving party has made a strong showing that it is likely to prevail on the merits. (2) Whether the party will be irreparably injured unless a stay is issued. (3) Whether the granting of a stay would harm other parties. (4) Where the public interest lies." There's no doubt that the public's interest would have been better served had the low power license been delayed until the matter of evacuation is settled. Why contaminate the plant until the public's safety is assured?

The Washington firm would not have committed such an elementary error. Even those who have complained the loudest about the cost of this firm's legal efforts grudgingly admit they have done an excellent job. And when complaining about the cost, they have failed to consider the fact that the spotlight focused by this firm on Shoreham has played an important part in the recent Public

Service Commission ruling that hits LILCO with \$1.35 billion of Shoreham's costs because of mismanagement. If we had rolled over and played dead in the Shoreham battle, would the consumer-oriented PSC have taken such action? Hardly. Thus, some of our legal costs will come back to us in lower rates.

Considering his new position in the matter, it is understandable why Cohalan wants the county attorney, rather than the successful Washington firm, to be involved in the Shoreham fight. Any coach who wants the other team to win certainly doesn't want his best players in the game. From the standpoint of the public's safety, however, it is not in the public's best interests to have the second--or worst, third or fourth--team carrying the ball. They are more likely to fumble—as Ashare did in his request for a stay.

This is no time to throw the ball game deliberately or otherwise by putting in less than the best. With all the problems of the past, and more importantly now during the low power tests—the most recent last Friday when another "operator error" caused a spill within the containment building—we must remain diligent and keep the pressure on at Shoreham. The public's safety is at stake, and that, from our point of view, will not be properly protected if the current county attorney heads the legal efforts. The public deserves better.

And why not?

## Little More than a Drip

This past Friday there was an accident at Shoreham. Some 6,000 gallons of radioactive water spilled into an area it should not go into. Unconfirmed reports indicated another worker's mistake caused the incident. A valve was not totally closed, causing the radioactive waste to be misdirected.

LILCO will say that this was a minor incident, the type of thing you expect to happen during the low power testing. We say, bull.

It's typical of the gross negligence and incompetence that the project has reeked of since day one. What is it going to take, another Three Mile Island, or worse, for the management of LILCO, the N.R.C. and their friends in high places to wake up and see that they are flirting with disaster?

Since LILCO has taken the plant to low power, they have been plagued with problems, almost on a daily basis.

We have no one inside the plant to

independently confirm the seriousness of these accidents, and we darn well can't believe the pap that LILCO is handing out at their press briefings. Nor can we rely on the word of the N.R.C., which gave the go ahead for low power tests. Are they likely to admit they made a mistake? We think not.

We asked that the county and state demand to have a qualified representative for the people inside the plant, one who is knowledgeable, and can, and will report the truth to the public.

LILCO is playing with our lives. So far the incidents have not killed anyone, nor have they constituted a radiological emergency. But they have indicated what we all feared, the plant is a failure, as are the people who are attempting to run it.

We urge our county legislature and the state to take action now. Demand an independent observer.

And why not?

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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.

## Where was Carney's Voice?

During last fall's congressional race, Bill Carney proudly displayed a letter from President Reagan stating that the federal government would not impose an evacuation plan for Shoreham.

Last week, in a congressional appropriations bill for F.E.M.A., the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Congressman Green from New York City inserted language

into the legislation that would give F.E.M.A. the authority to develop emergency evacuation plans over the objection of local and state officials.

This language is tantamount to giving the federal government the right to develop an evacuation procedure for Shoreham, contrary to President Reagan's pledge that Con-