

Do Your Homework

A careful reading of the Shoreham deal takes approximately four hours. A quick perusal can be accomplished in less than one hour. It is must reading for county and state legislators, who should personally take the time to read these documents sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph and page by page.

Most legislators, county through the federal level, do not take the time to personally read documents of this nature. They are time consuming and boring. They leave the task to their aides and depend upon the synopsis that the aides produce.

The Shoreham Deal documents are too vital to today's future and the future of our children and grand-

children not to be read carefully and with scrutiny by the elected officials themselves. The deal contains many assumptions that could raise havoc with our financial futures far beyond that which has been revealed by its authors.

These officials are being asked to sign off on these documents. It's imperative that they understand the full meaning of every sentence, of every phrase so that they may reach an intelligent decision. These documents are too important to take a shortcut now. These public officials have a grave responsibility to know all the ramifications of this deal before they take an official position.

And why not?

Volunteer Thy Time

Much has been said in recent times about the "screening" of ambulance calls to ensure police officers are at the scene of a violent crime before an ambulance arrives. Some have decried the delay this can cause in emergency treatment of a victim, and have criticized ambulance volunteers for the practice. There's another side to this issue which seems lost in the controversy.

Those who man the community and fire service ambulance companies are volunteers. They devote their time to training, and stand ready to respond at any time of night or day, in good weather or bad, to help those in need. There are dangers inherent in this kind of service, but these volunteers put their own safety on the line in many instances to be of service. That danger increases when the call is from the scene of a violent crime, and the perpetrator is still there. Who can say for sure what will happen if an ambulance crew arrives at such a scene and police officers are not available?

To those who say the volunteers should respond immediately without thought for their own safety, we can only say: volunteer thy own time. Make yourself available for violent crime scene calls. Put your own life on the line.

Ambulance volunteers are involved because they want to help those in need. There is little glory in

dealing with sickness and death, or in trying to stem the flow of blood and save the life of a victim trapped in a shattered vehicle. They don't rush to the ambulance and then to the scene because there is nothing better to do. They're involved. They care. They are the cream of Suffolk residents.

Think they don't respond fast enough? There's a solution. Hire those who are needed to provide emergency service. Hire four shifts so someone is always available. That will eliminate the time needed for a volunteer to go from home to ambulance headquarters. It will speed response. All you have to do is pay the cost. It will be substantial.

Is the current system perfect? Of course not. Are there times the response may be delayed because there are not sufficient volunteers available? Yes. How do you solve that? Volunteer yourself to fill the void, or hire the ambulance crews. And pay the bill.

There are a lot of critics out there always willing to cry out: "They didn't get here fast enough." Volunteer thy own time. Do better. When you have put your own feet in the shoes of those who serve, you will have earned the right to criticize. Until you do, be thankful for those who are there when the call for help sounds.

And why not?

Win Turns Into Loss

The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) scored an amazing victory in a recent proxy battle to elect LIPA board members to seats on the board of directors of the Long Island Lighting Company. The LIPA slate, made up of LIPA board members Irving Like, Nora Bredes and Leon Campo,

received the votes of stockholders holding 28 million shares. This total gave LIPA the right to select one of the three candidates to sit as a watchdog on the LILCO board.

The best possible choice would have been Irving Like, the Babylon attorney who has been fighting the



Shoreham nuclear power plant since the very beginning. It was Like, in fact, who first raised the issue of evacuation during the construction permit hearings on the plant. And Like has been involved in the Shoreham battle all through the years. He is an expert on the subject of nuclear power, on utilities, and has never wavered in his efforts nor used them for political benefit.

Like wasn't elected by the LIPA board majority, however. Instead, they selected Leon Campo, who jumped to embrace the governor's LILCO deal the moment it was first announced, even before he knew the contents of the document. If LILCO had to live with any one of the three LIPA candidates—and they have no choice in the matter because of the proxy balloting results—we believe they would undoubtedly have selected Campo. They certainly wouldn't want Like, who would have scrutinized every LILCO move on behalf of the public.

Campo, a business administrator in the East Meadow School District, is also a LIPA board member, and chairman of the Suffolk County Water Authority. The water authority plum came his way following his active participation in the unsuccessful congressional campaign of Legislator Gregory Blass.

Most political observers agree that Blass suffered a devastating blow in his congressional race when he failed to confront Vice-President George Bush on the Shoreham issue during a Bush fundraising jaunt in Patchogue. Blass never raised the subject in public, never said a word about Shoreham or the federal attempts to push the plant down the throats of the residents. Campo fol-

lowed the same tack. A long-time anti-Shoreham activist, Campo was asked by Suffolk Life prior to the Bush visit if he would, as he had done in the past, be involved in any protest activity that would educate the vice-president about the strength of the anti-Shoreham sentiments in the area. His response: "I don't want to do anything that would embarrass Greg." Campo compromised his position as an anti-Shoreham leader for what turned out to be his personal gain.

Blass lost, became presiding officer of the legislature, and Campo got the water authority chairmanship.

Immediately after the Cuomo settlement was announced, Campo called a gathering of anti-Shoreham activists to sell them on the deal. He did not invite many anti-Shoreham opponents, such as Nora Bredes, a leading opponent of the plant, who holds an opposite point of view about the settlement. Those at the meeting produced a joint letter supporting the settlement because it promised to close Shoreham. The financial impact on the public was not a consideration in that decision.

Following his selection by the Cuomo faction on the LIPA board, Campo told Suffolk Life his responsibility as a LILCO director would be to represent the shareholders who elected him to the board. Those shareholders, however, voted for a LIPA slate, a LIPA point of view, not Campo. They were fed up with the LILCO management, and wanted a change. Campo was elected by the LIPA board to sit as a watchdog for LIPA. In fact, for the people.

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S'ham deal gets begrudging nod...

Cont. from page 2

never have been built in the first place."

Mastic Beach resident Mary Ann Flores was also dissatisfied with the settlement. "(The plant) is a big mess that should never have been built. They should take money off our electric bills (instead of raising electric rates)."

"I don't like the settlement," said Christine Fleischman of Ridge. "Governor Cuomo sold us out. I can't see why LILCO, with the errors they made, is being let off. If you invested in the stock market and you lost, then you lost. Why isn't this being handled the same way?"

Utility Should Pay

Patricia Cahill of Selden also said that LILCO should absorb the cost of the plant's closing.

"It's (The Shoreham plant) dangerous and a hazard to our health," said Brett Rubin of Coram. "The settlement is not the best thing in the world, but at least it will close Shoreham."

Ann Mittleman of Coram said her family is a "little too close for comfort" to the plant. The electric rate increase, she said, is a satisfactory trade-off in order to keep Shoreham closed.

Eva Mathew said Shoreham should be closed "no matter what it costs. The plant presents a danger to Long Island, especially to the East End residents and it should not be operated."

It is not "unusual," she added, "for the taxpayers and ratepayers to have to pay for the mistakes made by the state and big business."

John Helf of Southold said he is not in favor of the proposed settlement because the taxpayers should not have to pay for LILCO's "incompetence and mismanagement."

Plant Can't Open

Helf said he does not want to see the nuclear plant open, but the state should be able to "do better" in negotiating with LILCO.

According to Doris Hilpert of Shelter Island Heights, "anything that will get rid of Shoreham once and for all" would be acceptable. However, she added, "we should not pay our taxes or electric rates until they (the state and LILCO) have cleaned up this mess."

The negotiations with and operation of LILCO "have been corrupt from the beginning," she said. The taxpayers and ratepayers of Suffolk County, she said, "have been abused."

One New Suffolk resident, who requested not to be named, said he does not favor the buy-out of Shoreham because the taxpayers and ratepayers are being "sold out."

Marian James of Peconic said she is in favor of closing Shoreham, but is not happy with the settlement because she is living on a fixed income and a 60 percent increase in electric rates may prevent her from remaining on Long Island.

Supports The 'Deal'

Fred Hollinger of Kings Park: "I support the deal. As for the rate increases. I am not so sure they will become a reality. I am sure that when the consumer advocates get done, the increases will not be as great as some say...It's better than having our lives in jeopardy."

"No Way. I don't trust LILCO. I favor nuclear power and think it's the way to go for the future, but somebody really screwed up with Shoreham," said Richard Hartmann of Bay Shore. Under the settlement, he added, "we'll pay too much."

Donna Morris, a New York City resident who spends summers in Southampton, said she also opposes the settlement, explaining, "electric rates on Long Island are already too high."

Mary Forbes of Montauk said she has mixed feelings about the deal because of the need for electric power versus anticipated higher rates. "I am ambivalent about it," she said, adding that if she had to choose at this time, she would oppose it.

Elizabeth Mills, from Westhampton Beach, said she would support "any deal which would mean the end to the Shoreham plant."

Urges LIPA Takeover

Michael Rinaldi of East Hampton said he would rather see a takeover of LILCO by the Long Island Power Authority.

Thomas Gains of Water Mill said he opposed the settlement based on the knowledge he has so far. "From what I read, rates are going to go up by far too much," he said.

Frederica Fucci of Central Islip said, "I don't think the plant should open...but I don't think it (closing the plant) should increase the cost either. That's not too hot. It's going to make it even harder on our kids."

Roseanne Henry of Bay Shore said, "We think it's great" but acknowledged she is "not crazy" about maintaining LILCO as a privately held utility. However, Henry added, "If that's the price we have to pay to close it, then we accept it."

William Hewitt of Bayport said, "It's inevitable that we have to go ahead (with the plant). They (nuclear power plants) are all around the world...it's the greenhouse effect. That's all I have to say."

Plant 'Plagued'

Although Dennis Jackson of Sayville said "it seems like a good idea," he is not in favor of maintaining LILCO as a private utility because the plant was "plagued with design and actual work problems" under LILCO management.

Jackson referred to the plant as a "dinosaur" and added that the lack of a workable evacuation plan was "the icing on the cake."

"Don't open it (the plant). It wouldn't be right...It would be dangerous," said 14-year-old Kim Kessler, of Brentwood. "Close it and keep LILCO," she added.

"I'm a LILCO employee. I'm for the plant," Robert Mehan of East Islip said, simply.

"I think it's a terrific idea, it should have been closed a long time ago" said Catherine McCreedy of Deer Park. "It's terrifying for me to live on an island with that plant in operation."

Regarding electric rates being increased by 60 percent over the next 10 years, McCreedy said she is against that idea because "LILCO should be paying for its own mistakes."

Strongly In Favor

"I'm strongly in favor of it, (the settlement)" said James Lonendyke of West Babylon. "I believe it's a hazard to the community." When informed about the possible 60 percent electric rate increase, he replied, "I'm hoping the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) takes it (LILCO) over."

"I don't like the idea of having a nuclear plant on the end of Long Island where a lot of people live," said Victoria Rolse of North Babylon, who is against the proposal. "I would rather see the electric rates go up than to have a nuclear reactor on Long Island."

Said one Babylon resident who wished to remain anonymous, "I'm very frightened of nuclear power plants. I've been against the plant opening up since the very beginning—we can do without them."

When asked what she thought about the prospect of having electric rates increase by 60 percent over the next 10 years, she replied, "I think I would leave Long Island. I don't want to give LILCO any more money."

Opposes Settlement

On the other hand, Josephine Klein, East Northport, opposes the settlement, "I prefer keeping the plant open with safeguards, if it means lower rates," she said.

Alan Kornfeld, East Northport, opposes the plan, as well as the opening of Shoreham. "It's not fair to one area to raise the rates that high," he said, suggesting the use of upstate power, as well as wind and solar energy. Why keep Shoreham closed? "It doesn't belong in a populated area," he said.

Several people used one word to describe their opposition to Shoreham: "trapped." Paul Kosubinsky, Melville, said "I don't want to be trapped on an island with no way out in case of a nuclear explosion."

But for sheer angry eloquence, Frances Kerpez, Northport, has the last word. "We were sold down the river with rate increases. LILCO executives screwed up and they're being rewarded for it. Buying stock is a gamble. People are sobbing it's their pension money at stake. But I've lost money on stocks and no one ever bailed me out," she said.

This story was reported by Tracy Giordano, Joey Mac Lellan, Thomas G. McNiff, Rachel Novak, Jeff Sievers, Elizabeth Tonis and Greg Valero, and written by Sievers.

Win into loss...

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The entire LIPA fiasco, its control by the governor and his men, points out one vital fact: If LIPA is to work and is to benefit the ratepayer, its trustees must be elected by the public. We must be able to flush out their views in an election process, and hold them accountable. If LIPA is to oversee the decommissioning of Shoreham, it must truly represent the wishes of the people, not the political desires of the politicians.

The legislation which created LIPA calls for election of LIPA board members in 1991. Governor Cuomo insisted the public elections be delayed until that date, and from the way LIPA activity has been stalled and manipulated thus far, we know why. What we need is an amendment to that bill, to move the election process up two years, to 1989. We need to oust those who march to political tunes, and elect those who would represent the people.

And why not?

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Truth squad on Shoreham

Governor Cuomo announced this past week he is sending to Long Island a "truth squad" to sell the truth on the Shoreham deal. If the deal wasn't so serious, this scenario would be laughable.

The agents that Cuomo is sending are the same people who either out of a lack of knowledge, a confused state of mind or just plain dishonesty, have leaked and uttered statements concerning the Shoreham and nuclear matters here on Long Island that are simply not true.

For example, at a recent Long Island Power Authority meeting, board member Irving Like raised an important question: "Can PASNY (the New York Power Authority) build any nuclear plants as part of their base load mix? Is there any restriction on them doing that?"

Vincent Tese, the chief negotiator for Cuomo's deal, responded: "Yes. There is a law in the state that you can't build any more nuclear power plants."

"What law?" asked Like. "What law?" questioned Steve Liss, the author of the LIPA legislation.

"There is a law in the State of New York," Tese insisted.

Liss shot back: "That's not true. The only place that that exists is in the LIPA statute."

"No, No," Tese objected. "It's in-Ritchie? (appealing for help from Richard Kessel, who also was involved in the deal process) No, I think there is a law in the state. You can't build any more nuclear plants. Rich?"

Kessel: "Yes?" Tese: "Is there a law in the State of New York you can't build any more nuclear plants?" Kessel: "Yes. It's a--"

Liss: "There's no law." James Bernstein, another LIPA board member, "There's no law."

Kessel: "What was the question?" There is no law. Kessel finally conceded there is a statement made by the governor which has no impact of law. Tese and Kessel met their match in this discussion because they were dealing with people who know the answers. They knew the truth. The major problem with the deal is that Tese and Kessel and the governor--and LILCO--are the only ones who really know everything that was given away. The whole truth. The rest of us know what they want us to know, nothing more.

What is the truth? Will the state power authority, which has the power to ignore local concerns about plant sitings, put future plants anywhere they want? Will they ignore the feelings of the people in Babylon, for example? Tese told county consultant Greg Pallast on May 12 that "Because of the timing, that's (Babylon) the only place they could get on line quick enough for when they would be needed." Where will the plants go? What is the truth?

We strongly suggest that the governor and his men read, in detail, the total agreement before they try to sell the people of Long Island what the agreement contains. If the Governor's men are smart, can read, can understand what they read, they will speak truths, but probably not with enthusiasm. You don't have to sell the truth. You have to tell the truth. Let's have the truth, by all means. But let it be the whole truth, in writing, not in rhetoric.

And why not?

The realities of life

When the Suffolk County Legislature gleefully shoved it to business in passing the Suffolk County VDT law, they expected business to sit back and take it. These legislators live in fantasy land that has no connection with life as it is.

People in business react to the stimuli around them. If business finds itself in a hostile environment, it moves to a more alluring situation just as people do.

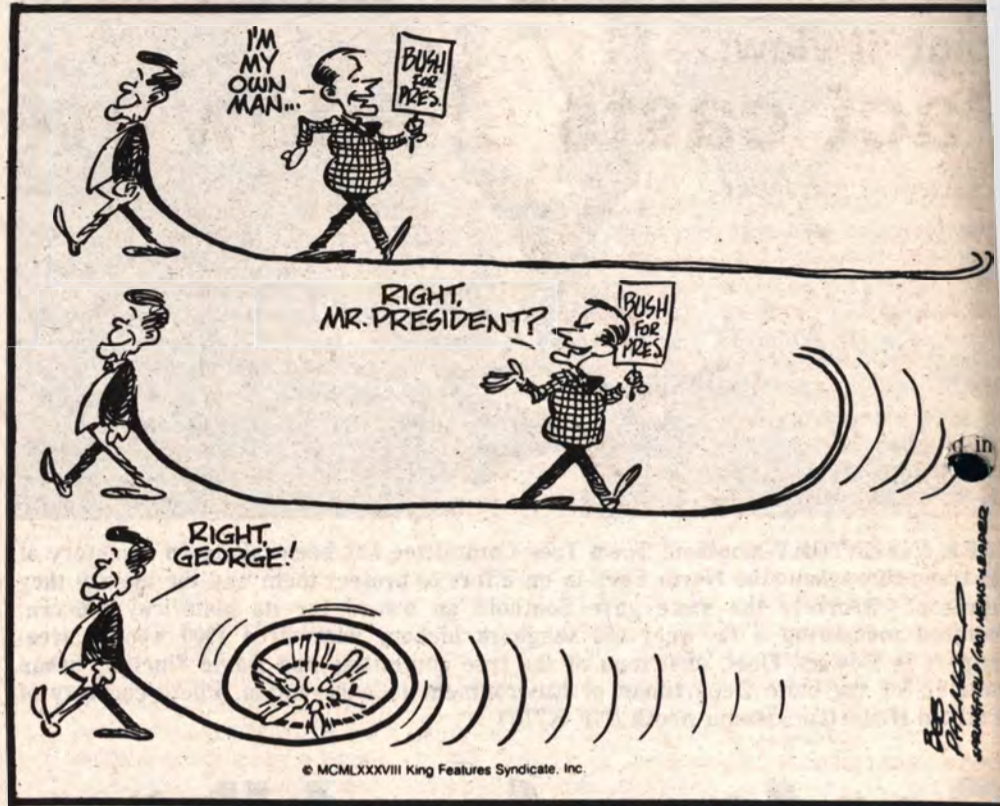
The New York Telephone Company's announcement that they would close their Babylon office came as a shock to some of the clowns on the legislature. Their reactions of indignation give a graphic example of their stupidity and lack of common sense. The telephone company's decision to move is not one made as a form of punishment. The legislature has imposed a condition upon this business which it feels it cannot live with. Their facilities and services do not require a Suffolk County location. The natural thing to do is to move where the costs of doing

business are less.

The phone company has come under attack by the people who have created this situation, which further exemplifies their stupidity and lack of common sense. Thousands of businesses quietly, and without fanfare, have made the same decision. Suffolk County is losing thousands of jobs and economic stimulus. Tens of thousands of jobs will never come into existence in this county as we put out the sign "Suffolk is hostile to business. We not only made it difficult for you to establish yourself here by a myriad of bureaucratic regulations, but we now have determined that we have a right to enter your work place and negotiate terms and conditions with your employees."

This is a fact of life, and all the wild statements made by the clowns will never change that fact. It's becoming obvious the only real solution is changing those who make our laws.

And why not?



The county lease

Willmott Plaza is a 110,000 square foot building located at 1461 Old Country Road, Route 58, Riverhead. Route 58 is one of the hottest retail, commercial properties in Suffolk County. We were fortunate to be able to buy this building and its adjacent 12 acres for the home of Suffolk Life.

We occupy approximately 55,000 square feet of this facility. Rental property along Route 58 when we first occupied the plaza, was going for \$11 to \$22 per square foot. We placed the balance of our square footage on the market at \$10.50 per square foot, triple net, to a triple "A" company.

We had many inquiries for utilization of this property. Many had to be turned down because they did not conform with our planned utilization as a commercial, industrial complex. In the Spring of 1986, we were approached by Edward Heins, who is deputy county clerk. He had seen an ad in Suffolk Life for this property. He asked if we would be willing to rent this space to the county for their archives. We told him of our terms and conditions and stated that we felt this was too valuable a space for a warehouse. Subsequently, officials from the county's Land Management Department came back to us and stated that the county needed this space. They made us an offer of \$8.55 per square foot.

As the county had a legitimate need, and we had the space and the term of the lease was for two years, we accepted the offer. To make this space usable for the county, we had to invest over \$200,000 in new air conditioners, renovations and electrical work.

The people of Suffolk County had a safe, secure place to store their records. I, as an investor, was receiving a return on my investment that, although not as high as I might have received, was adequate to

cover my cost of doing business.

The lease and its provisions were subject to legislative hearings. Legislators approached me and said that they were seeking other locations that were as suitable and might be more competitive. I encouraged them to do so and answered their unasked question, would I hold it against them? I alleviated their fears by saying, "you have a responsibility to the people of Suffolk County to seek and find the best situation available. If you find a location that is more suitable or of better value, you should take it. I would expect nothing less of you."

The comptroller of Suffolk County, Joseph Caputo, whom we have locked horns with on many occasions because of his asinine statements such as "people can evacuate Long Island by ice skating across the bays," deliberately decided to try and embarrass this editor, Suffolk Life Newspapers and its staff. He alleged that the lease was a "sweet-heart deal" and was in conflict of interest because Suffolk Life Newspapers endorsed various candidates. He offered an alternative to the Willmott Plaza, ramshackle surplus buildings at the airbase and abandoned potato barns that were located on farms throughout the area. Records placed in any of these facilities would neither be protected from the elements, nor from theft or fire.

Charlie Adams, the editor of Pensionsaver News, and the Smith brothers took up Caputo's accusations. Many of the allegations made in their publications were flatly untrue, based upon lack of knowledge and a definite decision to twist the truth to try and impugn this editor's reputation and the reputation of Suffolk Life Newspapers, which they attempt to compete with. They have held out their crusade to the public as

Cont. on next page

The Assumptions Of The Cuomo Deal

We learned a long time ago never to assume anything. Assumptions are dangerous. They can endanger your health and your pocketbook.

The Cuomo-Shoreham deal is filled with assumptions that we are being asked to accept as fact when they are not. As citizens, we are being asked to assume that if the deal goes through, the plant will close. The assumption here is that the N.R.C., which has the final say over whether the plant opens or closes, will allow it to close. This assumption is further complicated by another. The deal calls for the plant to be turned over to L.I.P.A. or another authority. Without saying it, what the deal says is that the plant can be turned over to N.Y.P.A., which is a state authority which operates nuclear power plants. As a state-run authority, N.Y.P.A. has powers of eminent domain. It is only responsible to its bond holders, and does not have to be responsible to the citizens.

We are being asked to assume that the plant will be decommissioned. Yet, many of the players from the governor's office have constantly referred to "mothballing" the plant, which means only temporarily shutting down the plant but leaving it ready to operate whenever the politics or the times are ready for it to operate.

On the financial side, which will affect our pocketbooks, the assumptions are even more uncertain. The governor has sold the deal, or been sold the deal himself, on the basis that rates can rise no more than five percent per year or be compounded sixty-three percent over a ten-year period. The governor, in his enthusiasm, has stated this as fact when he knows full well the P.S.C., by law, can only fix rates for three years. After that period, LILCO can petition the P.S.C. for whatever rate increase it wants. All that it has to do is show that the rate increase, according to the P.S.C. laws, is prudent and that it will ensure the health of the utility. LILCO does not have to show the effects the rate increase will have on the consumers or whether the consumers can pay for it.

The whole structure of the deal is based upon a number of assumptions that are not based in fact. Part of the deal centers around Internal Revenue Service approvals that will result in a \$200 million tax credit. The I.R.S. has not issued a letter or a ruling indicating that the federal government will spread \$200 million of the cost of Shoreham over the United States. If the I.R.S. disallows this assumption, the ratepayers will be forced to pick up this \$200 million disallowance and pay much higher rates than are being proposed by the governor.

Another part of the deal calls for \$100 million a year in industrial revenue bonds being allocated to LILCO. According to what we have read, this money would be used to refinance some of LILCO's debt. It is our understanding that industrial revenue bonds must be used for new construction that will provide jobs. In fact, two years ago, Congress changed and made much more stringent the utilization of I.D.B.'s. Congress limited the amount each state could float and for what purpose the bonds could be used. The deal assumes that the federal government will waive these rules and allow the I.D.B.'s to be used solely by LILCO for refinancing. We do not think this is a very safe assumption and one that is almost guaranteed to cause a court challenge.

The deal assumes, based upon LILCO's estimates, which are based upon a 1972 Atomic Energy Commission report that was based upon assumptions, that the cost of decommissioning Shoreham will be \$400 million. This is the amount that is worked into the rate base to keep rates at five percent over the next ten years. Testimony was given at the Cuomo Commission hearings by knowledgeable experts, who predicted that the cost of decommissioning a plant, at this time, would at least exceed the cost of building a plant. The difference between LILCO's assumption and the current estimate could be as much as \$5 billion. If LILCO is off on its financial projections, as it has always been, the cost of the Shoreham deal could double and triple.

The assumption of the whole deal is that LILCO will be a healthy, profitable company if it is able to pull this off. This agreement is based upon another assumption that the R.I.C.O. suit will not come to court this fall and LILCO and its managers will not be found guilty of racketeering. There has been a sufficient case here, after judicial review, to order the case onto the docket. Many knowledgeable people believe that there is a clear-cut pattern that can be proved and could well lead to Suffolk County winning its law suit and LILCO facing a judgement of \$9 billion, which will bankrupt the company.

There are a number of other assumptions in the deal that make it totally unpalatable. The one fact that is not assumption is that if the deal goes through, ratepayers will pay every penny of its cost, and this is just plain wrong.

If the state legislature or other agencies which must approve the deal turn it down, the governor says Shoreham will open. That's another assumption that is based strictly on his statement. Cuomo has been asked by this editor as well as others,

why, now, is it more imperative? He has not given an answer that can stand up to scrutiny. The governor said when the deal was announced, "take it or leave it. There is no further negotiating that can be done. It's the best deal that can be negotiated." That is the governor's assumption and we should not have to swallow it.

The deal is made up of three documents. The document the legislature has to sign off on has already been compromised. To get it passed in the legislature, the governor agreed to change the preamble and some of the provisions. Local municipalities now have the right to veto proposed plant sitings, and N.Y.P.A. does not have an exclusive on construction, it will be done by competitive bid.

We believe the whole deal can be renegotiated. LILCO says it will not reconsider. When the Cuomo deal was announced, on the strength of

the announcement, LILCO stock rose from \$8.00 to as high as \$14.00. LILCO officials know if the deal collapses, the stock in the company may hit its previous low or even bottom out further, to \$4.00. If LILCO fails to do this deal, it cannot expect rate relief from the Public Service Commission, which refused to consider their last rate increase based upon Shoreham's costs. LILCO was told, settle the Shoreham scenario before you come back for another rate increase.

Without rate increases, LILCO collapses financially. The management of the company wants to protect its perks, including its golden parachutes. If they face losing all, you can bet your sweet bippy they will renegotiate in the future and that is not quite as much of an assumption as Cuomo's statement is, "take it or leave it."

And why not?

Let Mother Nature do the job

Lady Bird Johnson kicked off a storm of enthusiasm by becoming involved in a project to plant wild flowers on the highways and byways from Maine to California.

We have driven on many back roads where wild flowers have been allowed to grow. They are beautiful, they add color and charm. We support Lady Bird Johnson's effort, but disagree that the project needs millions of dollars in funding.

Just recently, County Legislator Greg Blass announced that he found money in a Suffolk County account that he wants dedicated for this project. The county's financial condition is not good and we don't approve of using any county funds for wild flowers. There are more pressing needs. Blass knows this well, but he could not keep himself from trying to grab some free coverage.

We have an alternative suggestion to make and that is to allow Mother Nature to do the job herself. It is the policy of the county and state highway departments to cut the grass along the highway medians and the roadside right-of-ways. They treat these natural growth areas as if they were lawns. The cutting stops the blooming of wild flowers that grow in these areas.

Just recently, at the eastern ex-

tension of Sunrise Highway in Southampton Town, the grass was allowed to grow wild during the spring season. Over a two week period in early June, the growth produced miles of beautiful yellow flowers. Day after day, they bloomed in all their glory. Not only were they, and the grasses they grew with a sight to behold, they covered up the litter and filth that had been carelessly discarded by motorists.

One morning in the latter part of June, the public works trucks, mowers and men were there cutting this growth. The next day what had been beautiful fields of flowers and natural growth was a barren, burned out brown strip as interesting and as inviting as the Sahara Desert.

Keeping our median strips and the roadside right-of-ways manicured costs hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. We waste manpower, gasoline and equipment. What do we produce? Ugliness. Why not cut just an area where cars can pull off in emergencies, and leave the rest to Mother Nature? We would have a thing of beauty. When we have some extra money in our budget in good times, sow wild flower seeds and let them rise up and bloom in all their glory.

And why not?

IF FOR ANY REASON

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Cuomo Credibility Gap

No matter which side of the LILCO/Cuomo deal you are on, better than 75 percent of Suffolk County residents are opposed to the opening of the Shoreham nuclear power plant. How we go about it is a major difference of opinion.

Governor Cuomo has been relentless in his opposition to the opening of the plant. His opposition to the plant, like that of the majority of the people, is based solely on safety. He fears the health consequences of the plant operating, and the reality that if and when an accident happens, Long Island could not be safely evacuated without loss of life and massive harm to the residents.

Governor Cuomo has come up with a deal that he claims will close the plant. We applaud him for his dedication to close the plant, but seriously question the deal itself and its ramifications. His sincerity and firm belief in the closing of the plant makes him believable, makes you want to trust him, but the facts create a huge credibility gap.

Cuomo enthusiastically supported the creation of the Long Island Power Authority. The bill which he signed into law creating L.I.P.A. gave the authority two mandates. The first called for the public takeover of the Long Island Lighting Company if L.I.P.A. could generate electricity less expensively than LILCO. The governor appeared publicly to support L.I.P.A. and we assumed, which was a mistake, that if it could be proven that electrical rates would be cheaper under L.I.P.A., the governor would continue his support.

Between the time the bill was signed creating L.I.P.A. and its establishment six months later, the governor assigned Vincent Tese to try to negotiate with LILCO for the closing of the nuclear power plant. The governor gave deadlines for these negotiations to be concluded. When the deal was not struck and the deadline not met, we all assumed that the governor was a man of his word. The time for a friendly agreement was over. We assumed that the governor was fully committed, if economically reasonable, for public power to become a way of life on Long Island.

The Lazard Freres study was ordered. During the time this study was being prepared, the governor's chief negotiator, Vincent Tese, was supposed to be again negotiating with LILCO, not for the acquisition of Shoreham, but a friendly takeover of the corporation. During this period, a publicity embargo was placed on L.I.P.A. that prevented the public from knowing what was going on during the board's meetings. Members were pledged not to speak to the press or discuss publicly, L.I.P.A.'s affairs.

Irving Like, member of the L.I.P.A. board, he outlined chronologically a review of what up to that point had been secret. A reading of this report indicates a blatant deception by the governor's men and the governor himself. It appears from the start that Cuomo had no intention of establishing public power on Long Island. He favored an acquisition of Shoreham over an acquisition of the corporation. Even though the Lazard Freres report confirmed earlier reports that Long Island ratepayers would save by taking over LILCO, the governor still did not favor a takeover of the company.

The deal he worked out with LILCO gives everything to the corporation at the expense of the ratepayers. It's a very bad deal from a ratepayer's standpoint. The corporation gives up nothing other than the ownership of the contaminated areas at the plant, which will be decommissioned at the public's cost. LILCO pays no penalty for their poor planning, the mistakes they have made or their arrogance. They sell the physical plant for \$1, but recover every penny they have prudently invested in the plant and the profits they would normally make if the plant had been a wise decision and had operated efficiently and effectively.

The ratepayers, who have already paid \$3 million in construction work in progress (CWIP) funds and emergency rate increases to sustain the corporation, do not even receive credit for these payments that have been extracted from them. There are a number of assumptions based upon the federal government authorizing tax abatements and tax credits that have been figured into rate comparisons. If these assumptions do not come through, a larger burden will be put on the backs of the ratepayers.

By Public Service Commission law, rates can only be guaranteed for three years. The governor has said he projects that LILCO will not need rate increases more than five percent per year over the next ten years to pull off the deal. That is not a hard guarantee, as there is no guarantee that Cuomo will be around after three years either.

The deal will cause absolute economic devastation for Long Island and Cuomo should be honest with us and explain exactly how this will affect the average resident. Cuomo and the P.S.C. have done a brilliant job in outlining how LILCO, the corporation, will be made financially stable again because of this deal. Where are the economic projections and the models showing how other Long-Island businesses and residents will be affected by the economics of Shoreham? Where is the balance? Where is the honesty? Based upon the dealings of the governor and his

men since the creation of L.I.P.A., we believe the governor has created a huge credibility gap that must be fully explained by the governor himself.

Why were public statements being issued that appeared to support public power for Long Island when the

deal by the governor and his men has gone in the opposite direction? Why the dishonesty?

Governor Cuomo has a lot of explaining to do before he can seriously ask Long Islanders to have faith in him again.

And why not?

Volunteers Needed

Almost from the establishment of Long Island as a civilized land, volunteerism has been a way of life. Even back before the white man inhabited this area, the Indians from various tribes gathered together and dug a ditch from the Peconics to the Shinnecocks, establishing the Shinnecock Canal. As white men developed the land, they depended upon the mutual aid of their neighbors and friends for safety, fire, churches and schools. It's been a way of life on Long Island that you look out for your neighbor and he looks out for you.

Our fire protection and our ambulance corps are all volunteer organizations. The members of both organizations go through hours of extensive training to learn the latest in techniques in order to enhance their skills and methods, to save and protect the lives of their neighbors.

Just a few short years ago, fire departments, rescue squads and ambulance groups had waiting lists of volunteers who wanted to join the ranks. The sixties ironically brought changes. During this period many took an active part and participated on a citizen level in government. In the seventies the pendulum swung back and society, as a whole, had a tendency to go it alone. Money and self gratification became the driving force of the new/young generation that became known as the "yuppies". "What's in it for me?" became the slogan, replacing President John Kennedy's challenge to America, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Today, almost every fire department, ambulance corp and rescue squad in Suffolk County is seeking volunteers. They are understaffed. As a result of our self-centeredness, we are placing our neighbors and

friends, as well as ourselves, in jeopardy. Suffolk County's volunteer organizations need you. Yes! We need you.

Whether you be a laborer or an executive, a career women or a housewife, you are needed as a volunteer by your local fire department, rescue squad and ambulance corp. You should seriously consider finding out what might be expected of you. There is a commitment of time and training required. There is a commitment to respond when there is an emergency. Some people work days, some work nights. That's fine, for people are needed 24-hours, around the clock.

You may use the excuse, I don't work in my home district. That's not an excuse because when you are in the district, you can serve, and should seriously consider it.

A number of people we have spoken to have a multiple of questions concerning volunteering. Some would like to but don't know how to go about it. As a public service, Suffolk Life is running a survey of Suffolk residents, to assist in recruiting volunteers. We have prepared a form we would like you to fill out. The forms returned will be forwarded to the appropriate agencies who need volunteers. A representative of the agency will contact you or invite you to a briefing where the program in which volunteers are needed will be explained in detail and formal applications will be taken.

Whether you have just a few hours a week to commit yourself or are available seven days a week, we encourage you to find out how you may be able to serve your neighbors and friends.

Please fill out the form below and send it to Suffolk Life c/oVolunteers, P.O. Box 167, Riverhead, New York

Yes, I am interested in volunteering my time and service. I would like more details about:

---Ambulance Corp. ---Fire Departments ---Rescue Squad

---Other organizations not related to emergency service

Name.....

Street.....Hamlet.....

Phone number: Day.....Evening.....