

# What's \$30,000 to King John

early January Suffolk Aviation made a proposition to the County Legislature. The firm presented plans to operate an air show at the Suffolk County Airbase at the end of July. The basis of this proposal was to guarantee the County a minimum \$30,000 rental for this three day show. Suffolk Aviation was willing to talk about turning over a percentage of the gate as well as rental fees.

Suffolk County would be given, gratis, a major air show. Suffolk Aviation was to assume 100 per cent of the cost of promoting, running and cleaning up after the show was over. The County would not have to put up one cent for the show nor would there be any County personnel's time involved in any aspect of this endeavor.

This past week, Joseph Rubio, a principal in Suffolk Aviation came to us and asked why Suffolk County was not interested in making at least \$30,000.

We made a few phone calls and found out things are being blocked where they are usually blocked -- by our illustrious leader, King John. It seems like this man of great wisdom and financial expertise ain't interested in \$30,000 bucks.

The King doesn't want any air show in Suffolk

County. Nobody knows why, but that is the King's decree, and that's the way it is folks.

\$30,000 bucks by itself isn't going to raise or lower your real estate taxes. \$30,000 worth of income isn't going to change the amount of sales tax you pay to finance Suffolk County government.

King John should have to look at it as we the taxpayers do. \$3.00 isn't going to make or break the average household, but for some strange reason, women who have to make their husbands' income stretch further than the money he earns are feverishly clipping \$3.00 worth of coupons out of the newspapers and redeeming them at the food markets. This \$3.00 worth of food money makes a difference between survival and going under.

We don't expect our ever-loving King to understand this kind of basic economy, and that's probably why he can sit there on his royal throne and decree there is not going to be an air show at Suffolk County Airport worth some \$30,000 to the County.

The King is not only throwing away \$30,000 in plain and simple revenues, he is denying the Eastern Long Island tourist industry a hell of a boost; and the county is losing all that lush 7 per

cent sales tax on the hot dogs, sodas, beer, gas and accommodations to boot.

We sat down with Rubio and asked him alot of hard questions about how he could guarantee the County this revenue. He told us he was willing to post a bond for this money. He was willing to have county officials set up any kind of check system they desired to monitor the sale of tickets and refreshments.

Rubio is still willing to go ahead with these plans. He said even though the time is late, Suffolk Aviation has the basis of the air show put together and can still present a highly successful show -- if they can get the lease. It is up to King John and the County Legislators (those shining knights) to either say yes or no.

We think it is a heck of a good idea. Suffolk County finances are balanced on a tightrope now and every penny generated will help avoid future tax increases to us. In addition, an air show that could bring up to one-quarter of a million people into Eastern Suffolk won't hurt the economy of the East End one bit.

Time is late, but it's not too late for King John to have some foresight or to hope one of the Legislators has the courage to buck him and make this happen. And why not?

## Now the front door

Last year, New York State Legislators stuck their greedy little paws into your pockets and heaped bonuses upon themselves for the great job they had done for you. These lulu's topped the salaries they agreed to accept when elected.

At present, Assemblymen and Senators receive \$23,500 per year, plus \$40.00 per diem expenses while in Albany. They receive this salary plus extra for these part-time positions. The legislature traditionally goes into session on January 1 and adjourns sometime after April 15. Many legislators maintain other jobs, are owners of businesses or maintain lucrative law practices on the side.

Lulu's came into existence to compensate the legislators for additional expenses that might be incurred if the session was held over the normal schedule and they had to pay for living expenses out of their own pockets. A few years back the legislature was supposed to have done away with lulu's by replacing them with per diem allowances.

Last year, the Democratic leadership of the Assembly and the Republican leadership of the Senate, in an off election year, reinstated the lulu's. The constitutionality of this rip-off was challenged in court. So far it has lost in the State

Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and now is being appealed once more.

The cost of this appeal has been paid for by the taxpayers of New York State. The legislature has used our money to defend its unconstitutional actions which have ripped us off for \$800,000. It is expected that they will not win the current appeal. We hope these unscrupulous legislators will be forced to pay back the \$800,000 that they awarded themselves illegally.

This was a back door move, underhanded to say the least. Now, as it appears they are losing by going through the back door, the legislators are attempting to go through the front door. There is a bill in the Assembly and Senate that would greatly increase the salaries of legislative leaders up to \$68,000 annually.

Of even more frightening implication is the fact that these unscrupulous legislators are attempting to increase their term of legislation from two to four years.

At present, you have an opportunity to throw out every two years those who you feel are not representing you or who by their votes or their actions are unscrupulous. These people want to hide from you and they do not want to be subjected to your judgement every two years. They want to extend their terms to four years.

If a man is a good legislator and does not try to pull stunts like lulu's or double his salary at your expense and he pays attention to his district, he has no fear of not being re-elected every two years. Unethical and incompetent legislators have much to fear.

We, the people benefit from two year terms. We do make mistakes. We do elect to office people who are not qualified, people who we think will represent us but turn around and vote the opposite way. We often find out the power of the office has gone to their heads and they no longer are willing or able to represent, communicate, or keep in touch with their constituents.

We must have the opportunity to remove these people from office as frequently as we can. We do not like the shennannigans that are going on up in Albany; you shouldn't either.

We have enclosed a coupon which we recommend you send to your legislator informing him if he supports this outlandish salary increase or the lengthening of his term

### willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

you are not going to support him this November.

If he receives enough of these notices, you can bet your sweet bippy he is going to find a way to live comfortably on his 'part-time' salary and be more than willing to come around and say hello to you more than once every two years. If he doesn't get enough of these, he will raise his salary and isolate himself from you for twice as long as he has in the past. And why not?

Send them to the following representatives:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Assemblymen:</b>     | <b>Paul E. Harenburg</b> |
| Perry B. Duryea, Jr.    | State Office Building    |
| Tuthill Road            | Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787    |
| Montauk, N.Y. 11954     |                          |
| <b>Senators:</b>        |                          |
| George Hochbrueckner    | Leon E. Giuffreda        |
| State Office Building   | State Office Building    |
| Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787   | Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787    |
| I. William Bianchi, Jr. | Caesar Trunzo            |
| 25 Orchard Road         | State Office Building    |
| E. Patchogue, N.Y.      | Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787    |
| 11772                   |                          |

Dear Senator:

I am opposed to your raising your salary and if you go against my wishes, I will have no choice but to vote for someone else who can afford to live on \$23,500 for a part-time job.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Assemblyman:

I also like to see \_\_\_\_\_ at least once every two years, but if you \_\_\_\_\_ to see me once every four, I will find a man for the Assembly who doesn't mind keeping in touch every two years.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_


Street \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

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# The cost of bailing out the S.W.S.D.

Most of us have neglected to pay attention to the South West Sewer District. It's a special use district created by a vote of the residents of the area. We did not have a say in whether this district should be created or how it would be funded, therefore we felt it was none of our business.

Unfortunately, the South West Sewer District has become very much our business, and a very important part of Suffolk County government. According to Assemblyman Bill Bianchi, somebody along the line pledged the full faith and credit of Suffolk County to the funding of this project. Now we are on the hook to pay off the indebtedness of this scandal-ridden pork barrel project.

The South West Sewer District was originally estimated to be a \$250,000,000 project. Cost estimates now range up to \$880,000,000. This figure does not include the interest on the bonds which also have to be calculated. Including interest, the project will cost \$1,956,556,800 in its entirety.

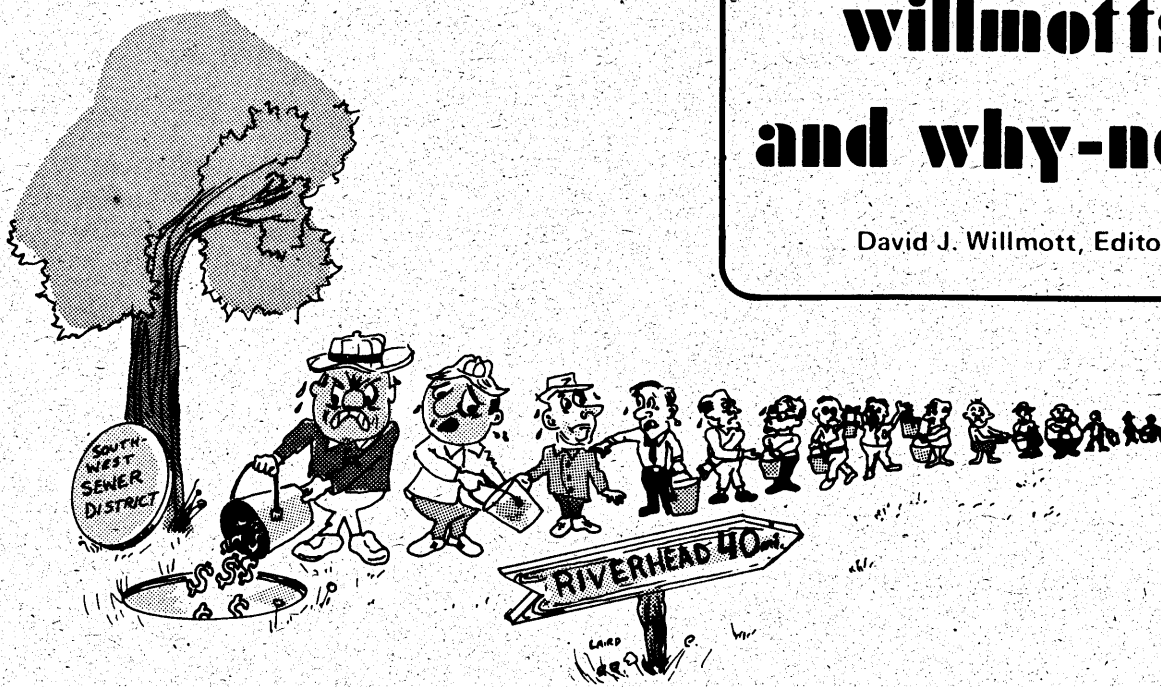
Our County Legislature gave in to King John's demands in an act of cowardice. They have opened a Pandora's Box and agreed to pledge one-third of the sales tax revenues generated in all of Suffolk County to guarantee the bonds sold to finance this project will be paid back.

At present, Suffolk County residents pay a total of 7 per cent sales tax. Of that 7 per cent, 4 per cent goes to the state and 3 per cent remains in the County. In 1975, 3 per cent generated \$102,000,000 in revenues. It is estimated in 1976 sales tax revenues will ring up \$110,000,000.

Out of the estimated cost of \$880,000,000 it is expected that the federal and state government will pay \$400,000,000 of the cost, leaving the South West Sewer District and the County with a \$480,000,000 balance, to be raised through borrowing and bonding.

There is a bill before the Assembly to allow Suffolk County sales tax funds to be used to back up these bonds. The Assembly wisely has placed a limit of 10 per cent as the interest that may be paid on them.

At a 10 per cent interest rate, and with a 40 year mortgage, borrowing four hundred and eighty million dollars will cost the South West Sewer District and the taxpayers of Suffolk County, one billion, nine hundred fifty six million, five hundred fifty seven thousand dollars!



# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Interest and principal payments each year for forty years will come to just over \$49,000,000 or about 50 per cent of all sales tax monies raised in the County in 1975. Taking 50 per cent of the sales tax money out of the budget for this one single use district project will mandate County real estate taxes be raised by 11 per cent. They will rise only 11 per cent if Suffolk County stops all further capital expansion projects not already budgeted and keeps the size and amount of services at the 1975 level.

The South West Sewer District project has been a scandal from the start. Under County Executive H. Lee Dennison's dictatorship, Suffolk County government paid for one of the most unethical advertising campaigns ever devised to scare the voters of the South West Sewer District into narrowly approving this boondoggle.

The concept of this mammoth sewer district is faulty at best. The problem is not sewage, but fresh water. Sewage was starting to contaminate shallow wells. The answer was not disposing of sewage, but getting fresh water to the homes that were affected.

Long Island's water comes from three principle water domes centered under Long Island and they technically are considered un-

derground reservoirs.

The concept of the South West Sewer District is to take all sewage and treat it and pump it out into the ocean rather than treating it and allowing it to seep back into the ground. This will cause a rapid depletion of our fresh water supply. This has been bitterly opposed by water and land use experts. When conservationists and ecologists questioned this, they were shouted down as rabble rousers and idiots.

It would make sense for the County to halt this project, stopping any further expansion and see where they have gone wrong. But for reasons best known only to Suffolks' most notorious power broker, King John, he is pushing 1000 per cent for completion of this project in its present form. He refuses to take into consideration the devastating effect it will have on our fresh water supply and the pocket books of the Suffolk County taxpayers.

We should have been aware of what has been going on in Suffolk County. The time is late but it is not too late. We encourage you to dig for the facts surrounding this project and speak out as we are. Your future in Suffolk County is at stake as well as ours, and if this project is allowed to continue unencumbered, it can single-handedly ruin Suffolk. And why not?

## How many people have to get killed?

If you had a major highway in Suffolk County (such as the Long Island Expressway or Sunrise Highway) vital to transportation, would you allow the road to be closed periodically? Would you tolerate sand drifts building up on it that could cause auto wrecks? This is what King John, by decree, is allowing to happen to Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets.

These two inlets are the only openings to the Atlantic Ocean, east of Bay Shore. These are the major arteries for commercial, sport and pleasure craft connecting the Great South Bay, Moriches, Shinnecock and Peconic Bays with the Atlantic.

The Moriches Inlet is officially closed to navigation by the Coast Guard because of the severe shoaling and drifting sand. Shinnecock Inlet is in almost as bad condition, but still is open. Mariners take their lives and the lives of their crews in their hands every time they attempt to navigate these waters.

Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets were created by the hurricane of 1938. The Corps of Army Engineers erected rock jetties and bulkheading to stabilize these inlets. The care and upkeep of the inlets was turned over to Suffolk County, and

per usual with the County, conditions have gone from bad to worse.

John Klein has refused to support measures to stabilize these vital waterways. In his mind, somehow, he has confused the stabilization of these inlets with the erosion control project (jetty construction) along Dune Road that has fallen into disfavor.

Suffolk County's economic base is greatly affected by our waterways. Literally millions of dollars are spent each year on marine-related activities both commercial and pleasure. If the deterioration of these inlets is allowed to continue, a great percentage of the marine industry will come to a screeching halt.


If nothing is done to correct the hazardous conditions at both inlets, people will be killed. It is now just a question of when and how many people will die. John Klein and the County Legislators must answer for this as well as the economic effect on Suffolk County. Think of the lives that will be lost because of their inaction.

Our Legislators and our County Executive have a serious obligation to fulfill and they should act immediately to meet their responsibility. And why not?

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# Is the legislature looking for a fall guy?

In the late winter, the County Legislature decided to do something about the Suffolk County Airport. John Klein, the County Executive, had recommended closing it down. But there was a feeling in the Legislature this might not be the proper action to take.

The Legislature created a citizen's Advisory Committee and charged it to examine the fiscal structure and recommend one of the following by the first legislative meeting in June:

- 1) Close down the facility entirely,
- 2) Recommend ways to save on operating costs,
- 3) Determine how to utilize the airport productively.

The initial committee, made up of interested citizens and government officials, met the first time in April and has met almost weekly since then. The task was enormous and the committee was broken into sub-committees, each delegated according to the members' expertise to examine the various facets of the operation. By mid-May it was obvious that a meaningful and comprehensive report couldn't be assembled by the deadline; the committee unanimously agreed to ask for an extension and submit an interim report when the legislature met on the 22nd of June.

The Legislature agreed to this, but then turned around and arbitrarily wiped out the Department of Aviation which had been operating the facility, and was under examination by the committee. The Committee had not recommended this or any alternative plan. This was solely the doing of the legislature.

We question, why, after allowing the Suffolk County Airport to operate in a state of oblivion and utter confusion for five years, there was a panic to disassemble the Department of Aviation. Particularly odd is the fact that the Legislature has transferred the power to administer the Suffolk County Airport to a Commissioner of Transportation who doesn't even exist. At least with the Department of Aviation, there was a warm body one could go to for answers and solutions regarding the airport. Now, because of the Legislature's actions, we are dealing with a phantom and a title.

Last Wednesday the committee met to compile the interim report and was asked by the legislature to decide the fate of the pending Suffolk County Air Show, proposed by Suffolk Aviation for the last weekend in July. The committee was not presented with any facts, and it appeared that what the Legislature wanted

was a fall guy to blame for a decision they were unwilling to make themselves.

In addition they wanted the committee to approve the governmental mechanism for transferring employees of the Department of Aviation to Grounds and Maintenance. This would be tantamount to committee approval of the disbanding of the Department of Aviation of Suffolk County.

The Legislature also wanted the committee's approval of a resolution defining the Suffolk County Airbase as general aviation airport. This resolution totally lacked any scope or even a comprehensive definition of what a general aviation airport is. This has been the crux of the entire airport problem.

To solve any problem, the problem itself must be defined clearly and objectively.. This has not been done with the facility.

As a result the planning department has gone ahead with delusions of grandeur and developed an international jet port. The community has gone ahead with the notion that a general aviation airport would be a modest facility for small private and corporate aircraft.

No one really knows what a general aviation airport is until somebody sits down and puts down in black and white the scope and the limitations of a general aviation airport in Westhampton. Until then we will have a ramshackled overgrown potato field with expensive run-ways in the middle of it.

We were hopeful when the Legislature created a Citizens Advisory Committee they did so in good faith; and when they charged the committee with the responsibility of investigating the facility's past use and potential, they would at least take these recommendations into consideration. We hoped the Legislature would respect the hours committee members had put forth attempting to make a worthwhile contribution to the County.

By dismantling the Department of Aviation prior to the recommendations of the committee, the Legislature has symbolically slapped each and every member in the face. They have further ignited the anger of the Citizens Committee by crudely attempting to make them the patsy for their inability to make a decision regarding Suffolk Aviation's proposed air show.

The members of the committee have taken their responsibility seriously, and if the County Legislators do not, the committee should resign en masse. Stop wasting their time in an exercise in futility. And why not?

# Tick bill still holding

Assemblyman Perry Duryea is appealing to residents of Suffolk County to help him. He is trying to bring pressure on the Ways and Means Committee in the State Assembly to move a bill out of Committee which would fund a research project to develop a method to kill ticks, compatible with our environment.

Ticks have always been a problem on Long Island. Dogs and horses easily pick them up and so do humans. It is hard to go for a walk through a meadow or in the woods without coming in contact with these pests. Normally they are nothing more than an annoyance, but in recent years we have had numerous cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever transmitted to humans

from ticks. A decade ago, there were only isolated cases, today they are common.

The disease not only debilitates and cripples, but is a killer. We must find a method to eradicate these pests now. It must be done before Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever reaches epidemic proportions, which might happen if we take no action.

We encourage you to write to the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the New York State Assembly in Albany, and also to the Health Committee of the Senate recommending immediate action on the Murphy-Lombardi Bill. And why not?

## willmotts

# and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

# Why cut the grass?

Most of Long Island's divided highways are separated by gigantic grass mediums. On both sides of these highways are right-of-ways which are also meticulously manicured.

As I have driven these highways I have often thought our natural resources are being wasted. What would a country like China or Japan or even Russia give to have fertile ground like this to cultivate. In place of manicured lawns, wheat could be grown, or for as far as the eye could see there might be orchards.

A few weeks ago, the grass on the Moriches Road had not been cut. Swaying in the warm breezes were beautiful wild flowers-daisies, and many other varieties that I can't even begin to name. It gave a good look to the landscape (back to nature if you will), a pleasant interlude from the miles and miles of mowed monotony.

I recently read that one of the Western states, as an economical and beautification move, had determined it no longer could afford the manpower needed to keep the highway grass and landscape manicured, and allowed it to grow wild. That fall, tons of wild flower seeds were scattered. The next spring and summer, travelers enjoyed the spectacular endless vistas of wild flowers, a virtual rainbow of color and beauty. This state saved over \$800,000 in labor costs that had been expended in mindless mowing in years past.

Doesn't it make sense, particularly at a time when we are running out of money, to eliminate the gardening of our parkways and allow Mother Nature to do her thing? Most of us like the country and country living, and beauty is letting Mother Nature go her course. Evenly manicured landscaped are man's doing, and no matter how much fertilizer and care are heaped upon it, it never can replace natural beauty.

In Suffolk County we can save hundreds of thousands of dollars each year by encouraging natural growth and eliminating 'make work' jobs. And why not?

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