

Poor Prince Charming

Anthony Noto, presiding officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, has developed a nickname that reflects his even temper and charming lovable personality.

SP Prince Charming this past week, as you will read on the front cover of this edition, accused this editor of being a liar. He doesn't elaborate on what I lied about, but that's typical.

Sociologically, economically, what we expect out of a government, what we are willing to fund, differ totally on the East End than the West End.

On abolishing the County Legislature, my interest is to return to the towns the powers that rightly belong to them, eliminating a wasteful duplication of effort.

Prince Charming has a terminal case of hoof and mouth disease that has swelled his head to the point that his self-appointed crown is splitting at the seams.

an honest living. For if the voters take away his public trough, as they may well do by abolishing the Legislature, he will have to enter the private world of producers and taxpayers.

In 1978, Prince Charming voted "no" and denied you, the citizens of Suffolk County, the right to determine whether you wished to be governed by a Legislative form of government or a weighted Board of Supervisors.

Prince Charming can pull all his tricks out of the bag, but he knows deep in his heart the voters of Suffolk County are going to get their day in court, the right to vote on the form of government they want.

Prince Charming is confused. He must decide whether to allow this to come to a vote in 1980 or delay it until 1981, with him and his colleagues simultaneously running for re-election for a job that may well be abolished.

We have compassion for Prince Charming, it is a difficult decision to make. If he puts this issue to a vote this November and voters approve the abolishment of the Legislature, he will be operating for a year as a lame duck.

assumed powers will be stripped. Yet his big shot at convincing the voters of his worth is in 1980. He knows in his heart if he waits until 1981, the chances are he will go down in defeat.

Facts Worth More Than Words!

Words, like figures, can be put together in many ways. They can be combined -- using those which make the point the writer is seeking to make, eliminating those, of course, that would confuse the issue with the facts, all the facts -- to tell the whole story -- or just half.

Discussions of legal notices can be a prime example of offering facts, just half of the facts, or just plain fiction.

But let's start with some facts: Legal notices are important. They detail important happenings in each community -- the scheduling of public hearings on zoning matters, changes in the law, bidding notices, annual school district meetings, budget hearings.

Legal notices are placed in newspapers within communities to inform the public. The selection of the papers in which they run can, indeed, be based on politics, or it can also be based on the desire to give the best coverage. The rates charged for such notices are governed by law, and graduate upward depending upon the verified circulation figures of the newspaper.

The claim that some newspapers can become quite dependent on the revenue they derive from the legals would depend, of course, on the volume of legal business. For those involved in placing the county legal notices this can be true. But in smaller communities, where the total billing is less than \$5,000 usually any newspaper that becomes dependent upon such a small financial base is trading on financial disaster.

But let's get more specific: A Riverhead editor has charged that because he wrote critical words, his paper is being threatened by officials "taking away" legal notices from that publication. He claims that the supervisor of that town has "hit on a system" of sharing legals with

his own personal record and the record of the Legislature, but also the actions or the lack thereof of the worst member of the Legislature. Poor Prince Charming. And why not?

another publication, with the Riverhead paper getting them one week and the other publication the next.

The fact of the matter is that system started several months ago, long before the critical words were written. To insist now that this system has been established because of critical comments is a charge without merit.

The charge has been made, also, that town officials were planning to place legal ads in Suffolk Life, and because one of the town officials is employed at Suffolk Life that would constitute a conflict of interest. First, no legals were placed from Riverhead Town in Suffolk Life. Secondly, if they had been, they would have been placed in Suffolk County Life, which has a limited circulation and legal charges would have been based on that number, while they also would have been placed -- FREE OF COST TO THE TOWN -- in the Riverhead Edition of Suffolk Life.

If saving the town money on its legal notices -- while increasing their coverage -- is a conflict of interest on the part of Councilman Vic Prusinowski, we really need more of that kind of conflict. And, by the way, Prusinowski would not have benefitted -- financially or otherwise -- by that placement. Those are the facts. All the facts.

There are some other facts as well. Each year, at the first town board meeting of the year, town boards designate those newspapers which are authorized to carry town legals. The Riverhead Town Board designated the three publications involved in this story way back in January, not recently. Placement of ads, however, is done on a week to week basis at the discretion of the town board, not the supervisor alone.

Yes, editors do come and go. But the presentation of facts -- all the facts and not just those which bolster the point one is trying to make -- should, hopefully, remain the same. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I greatly appreciate your attendance and support on Peconic County Day. Over the past few months your newspaper has been instrumental in helping to educate the public on the Peconic County issue. For this effort, I am also very grateful.

I hope you enjoyed Peconic County Day and

hopefully, this is the beginning of the final push to receive approval of the Peconic County referendum.

Sincerely, John L. Behan Member of Assembly 1st Assembly District

SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 19 NO. 83

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.

- North Fork Riverhead, Hampton East, Mid Hampton, Westhampton, Moriches, Mastick, Shirley, Patchogue, Medford, Sayville, Oakdale, Ronkonkoma, Centereach, Selden, Coram, Rocky Point, Port Jefferson, Three Village

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

- John McKay - General Manager, Richard Milman - Advertising Director, Lou Grasso - Promotion Director, Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager, Bill Johnson - Circulation Director, Judith Mc Mickle - News Editor, Sharman Gordon - News Art Director, Dick Kidder - Photo Editor, Maxine Holmes - Production Director, Peter Parpan - Asst. Production Mgr., Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County; \$5.00 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue.

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.

That's All We Need

Supervisor Joseph Janoski a few months ago proposed the establishment of an oil refinery in the Town of Riverhead.

Knowing Janoski was not what you would call a long term or experienced resident of the town, we ignored his statements. We shouldn't have. Janoski is rather thick headed, with little foresight.

A few years back, a group attempted to establish an oil desulphurization plant and refinery in Riverhead. The proposal found instant hostility from both long time and new residents of Riverhead and the East End. Oil refineries are at the bottom of the barrel for industrial development. They are the hardest of hard industry. They are obnoxious, foul smelling, dirty and a blot on the land. They definitely have no place in a suburban resort community.

An oil refinery affects Riverhead and all adjacent towns, including the resort area on the South Fork. An oil refinery can be smelled, and its ef-

fects felt for miles. Janoski claims the technology of oil refineries today makes them clean, ecologically compatible industries. Obviously, he hasn't taken a ride down the Jersey Turnpike or attempted to live close to Elizabeth, N.J., the site of many of the last oil refineries built on the east coast.

We didn't think Janoski would last very long as supervisor, but if he keeps promoting the concept of an oil refinery for Riverhead, he may have a shorter stay than even we envisioned. The people of Riverhead and the East End are not about to give up the clean air they breath or the country-like surroundings for all the tax abatements in the world.

We hope Janoski has the good sense to stop talking and start listening. If he doesn't, the other four members of the town board immediately should put the town board on record as opposing creation of an oil refinery in Riverhead or on the East End, period. And why not?

Good News For Peconic County

County Executive Peter Cohalan had been requested by the State Assembly to compile a financial feasibility report for creation of the new Peconic County. Henceforth, there had been only the Miller Report to substantiate what advocates of this new county were saying.

Cohalan had his budget analysis department and Lee Koppelman's Regional Planning Office prepare an itemized, detailed budget on the costs of running Peconic County the first year. The report indicated taxpayers of the East End would face a 40 per cent increase in real estate taxes. That is, if they duplicated Suffolk County service for service, salary for salary.

And it's that report that made proponents of Peconic County jump with joy. For what they envision as a county government is a mere fraction of what currently is stuffed down their throats by Suffolk. The whole idea and impetus behind the Peconic County movement is to eliminate the vast majority of wasteful county government. It has grown through 200 years of bureaucratic maze in Suffolk. Proponents of Peconic and residents of the East End traditionally have opted for smaller government, limited services and a heck of a lot less cost. This is the way they want their government structured.

They cannot influence Suffolk, as their desires are stifled by West End leaders who control all of Suffolk. The proponents of the new county envision

county government as meeting only items mandated under the state constitution. Based upon Cohalan's report, it is probable taxpayers in the East End can look forward to a drop in taxes. They won't pay for the waste in county government that abounds currently in Suffolk.

We expected the Cohalan report, using criteria set down for exact duplication, to show real estate taxes would at least double. The 40 per cent increase was the best news the Peconic County movement has received in months. Another factor the report touched on lightly was the real estate holdings of the county. Peconic will acquire some of the present Suffolk holdings within the Peconic boundaries. We also will be selling our share of holdings in the West End to Suffolk.

Although there has been no concrete formula worked out, it would be our guess that when all is said and done, the exchange of properties will come out even.

In fact, there is a better than even chance that the values of the Western Suffolk properties in which we have a vested financial interest will be greater than the holdings of the West End within Peconic boundaries. As we have said before, editorially, the splitting of the county also gives the power structure of the West a grand opportunity to go through their current structure and trim it back so taxes there can be reduced also.

And why not?

In Dom's Hands

Dear Dom:

As the Democratic leader of the County of Suffolk and the State of New York, you are a very important and influential person. The governor of New York is Democratic, the Senate and House of Representatives is Democratic, as is the current President.

Here in Suffolk, your home county, there is a serious problem affecting the lives and the welfare of the citizens. A breach opened to the East of the Moriches Inlet several months ago. What started as a small opening is today more than three-fifths of a mile wide. The barrier beach is gone. The ocean is rolling with all its force and fury directly into the bay. The lives of the residents, their homes and their property from Mastic Beach through Westhampton are in danger.

One small storm causing a surge as little as nine inches is projected to cause a minimum of \$10 million in property damage and result in untold loss of life. During the hurricane season, which is just around the corner, the barrier beach has been the only thing protecting the mainland from ruin. During a hurricane, it is not unusual for the tide to surge several feet.

Moriches Inlet is an emergency situation, one that needs immediate federal intervention. As the

Democratic leader you are a man of influence and power. You have the ear of the governor, the Congress and the President. The citizens of Suffolk County ask you to use your influence to show fellow party members the need for immediate action on this life and death situation.

Dom, to put it bluntly, as the top Democrat, in one of the top Democratic states in the nation, you should be able to motivate the Democratic Congress and the Democratic President to get the Army Corp of Engineers off their lethargic butts. If you can't, there is little reason for you to remain as Democratic leader. Further, no voter from Suffolk or New York State should support any Democratic candidate this November. This is an emergency situation. We are not asking for a hand out or political favor. We have paid our taxes to the federal government, now it's time for them to perform.

If they don't, we can only attribute their lack of action to pure politics. It does seem their refusal to act on human needs is because Suffolk County government happens to be Republican. That is sick! Dom, the inlet is in your hands. Will you use your power and influence for the people of Suffolk?

Any why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I congratulate you on your straightforward article on Hispanics and their refusal to speak our great country's language and demand to be catered to.

My father came from Poland not knowing one word of English. Yes, he learned without the help of bilingual schools how to communicate and speak English, however broken. He would say things like, "the boy hurt heself" or "the car had mudgardens" instead of "himself" or "mudguards." But, we understood and we were taught never to ridicule anyone.

My father opened a candy store in a neighborhood made up of many immigrants from many countries, all grateful to be here. There were Italians, Irish, Poles, Russians, Germans, French (my mother's parents came from France). All these people had thick accents, yet they communicated in their broken English and they were proud of it. They were proud to send their sons off to war to fight for the freedom this country had given them. The block parties we had at the end of WW II gave me beautiful memories to keep forever. I was only 13 years old, and I tasted many ethnic foods.

Oh! I almost left out the Jewish immigrants, without them I wouldn't have had a candy store to go to for a Meloroll or Walkaway Sundae. Also, the drug store owner who would treat every nation's kid for a skinned knee or splinter or something in your eye (that was before malpractice set in).

Now, getting back to the matter of Hispanic noncooperation: The bilingual setup was originally just to ease the Hispanics into English language, but they refused to be eased and the original \$7 million failure is now almost a \$100,000,000 failure. Most school districts know this but can't refuse the program because the government will cut off funds to the district that doesn't go bilingual by a predetermined date. Why the government keeps feeding this fiasco (driver's manuals in Spanish, men's rooms reading hombres, etc.) is beyond me.

Not a single person I know of wants this country split into more than one language. Yet, the government keeps forcing more of it on us. Why? And who's in the position to halt the spread of this nonsense? Who?

RRK
Shirley

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 19 NO. 84

and Suffolk County Life
Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Seiden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of
192,000 Circulation Weekly

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip; Town of Riverhead; Town of Brookhaven; Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager
Richard Milman - Advertising Director
Lou Grasso - Promotion Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Judith Mc Mickle - News Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director
Dick Kidder - Photo Editor

Maxine Holmes - Production Director
Peter Parpan - Asst. Production Mgr.
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$5.00 per year; Outside Suffolk County: \$7.00 per year; Newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue.

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.

Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

A Flimsy Excuse

We hope the Brookhaven Town Board lets the Board of Assessment start work at the earliest possible date. The lack of money to cover an extra two weeks' work by the board is a lame excuse, it seems to us. (The Town Board was expected to act on a resolution at last night's - June 17 - meeting).

A lack of money? Who's kidding who? The additional cash could be found, it couldn't be that much. We could raise questions about the free use of town cars by officials, some of the cars newly purchased. We could ask why the town hasn't done everything to meet state requirements for a reimbursement of \$340,000 from the State Assessment Board.

But, the real issue is does the Town want to help citizens get a fair reading on their property valuation? We wonder.

The months past have been filled with indications that the Town assessment program is a mess. One assemblyman has labeled it "basically incompetent."

Further, there have been questions

about who is actually running the assessor's office. (Arthur Malussena has been named assessor, officially). However, we are told the State Assessment Board still wants information from the town attorney's office before closing its probe of the question of Malussena's earlier appointment as acting assessor, and the temporary return of Edward Sullivan.

There was a problem earlier about obtaining grievance forms. We questioned then whether officials were trying to make it difficult for people to protest an assessment they considered too high.

Officials insisted there was no such intent. Okay, so they say.

But now they are backing away from a suggestion to help people by providing more time for the Review Board to look over assessments. They're fighting it, it appears to us. They cry money problems, but are they actually afraid of a too close look at assessments? We hope they'll act to prove they're not.

And why not?

Who Will Pay For Shoreham?

LILCO has just requested a \$228 million increase in user fees. Management contends they need this rate increase to finance completion of Shoreham's nuclear power plant.

Shoreham is a generating facility, an asset of the stockholders. LILCO customers were allowed no vote on this project or for a slate of officers who favored it. Shoreham was created to enrich the corporation and its stockholders so they could sell additional electricity and enjoy increased profits. Shoreham has been under close scrutiny and question since its inception. LILCO Board of Directors and officers contended this generating plant was needed to meet today's energy demands. Their projections of the need for energy

were produced by stockholder-paid experts. Obviously, we have no shortage of electricity. Shoreham is years past its projected completion date, yet LILCO is meeting the electrical needs of Long Island.

Opponents of Shoreham have charged LILCO with building for export. These charges seem truer than ever today. And, if this is the case, why should Long Island customers be charged for this expansion?

This is solely a stockholder problem.

If we as a newspaper make a faulty projection of equipment needs, we alone must suffer the consequences. This is the same in every business. Why should it be any different for

LILCO? It is a private corporation owned by management and stockholders. The stockholders enjoy a profit from selling and marketing electricity, and should enjoy an expansion of the value of their stock through reinvestment by the management and improvements that increase their wealth and assets. However, those improvements should be funded through additional stock issuances, bonds or loans against the assets of the corporation, plus profits made by good management of the corporation.

LILCO customers won't end up owning one cent of Shoreham or other assets of the corporation. So, there is no logical reason in the world we should have to pay for it. The Public Service Commission has a duty and an obligation to turn LILCO down cold, plus order an examination into the company books to find out what other capital improvement projects currently are being charged off against the base rate we are paying.

And why not?

By The People?

Last week, just prior to addressing the Charter Revision Commission, I thought what a unique experience it must be for these members to serve on this commission. For, in essence, they were doing the same job as our founding fathers, Franklin, Adams, Jefferson and the other signers of the U.S. Constitution. They were molding a document under which we would be governed.

I addressed the Charter Revision Commission on the Initiative and Referendum procedure, the need to make this democratic mechanism more workable for the citizens of Suffolk County. The current mechanism is a combination of the California Initiative measure, with abridgements and additions by our local legislators. It's not simple or easy for any responsible citizen to work with. It is filled with ambiguities and bureaucratic traps for citizen groups.

The commission actually has made this mechanism more complex. After I addressed this body and in informal conversation with some of the members, I learned that in just two days the commission intended to wrap up its work and present its proposal.

The commission has been working

almost two years preparing suggestions. During this time, it has called for no public input into this document, it sought out only bureaucrats and other government workers for advice and recommendations. The public hearings seemed to be more pro-forma, meeting the requisite of having the public make comment. The last hearing was held June 11. How could the commission possibly act on the public's recommendations? Would it have time for careful thought and deliberation? It did not seem likely, as the commission intended to complete their assigned task by the evening of the 12th.

Why wasn't the public kept informed of the areas the commission had planned to deal with, and invited all during its term to comment and have input? Public hearings should have been called for during every step of the revision procedure.

The finished document the commission is expected to turn over to the county will be a document by the government for the government. We're under the impression the founders of this country wrote the Constitution for the people and by the people. How things have changed!

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

As the first 100 days of the Lefkowitz administration nears completion, a number of residents are questioning whether or not the overwhelming mandate provided by the voters in November is understood by the leading elected citizens of Brookhaven Township.

The residents of the town voted for substantive change in response to the inability or unwillingness of the prior administration to deal effectively with the issues which affect the lives of the town's families. Government cannot correct every wrong nor is it at the source of every difficulty. However, its primary purpose is to magnify the public welfare through open and honest transactions, promotion of public understanding, sincere commitment to service to the people and effective harnessing of diverse talents and resources which abound in every community.

What has the first 100 days brought?

- The cancellation of a program to reassess every parcel for tax purposes and treat every citizen equally under the requirements of the law; ignoring the order of the court in Adam vs. Brookhaven to reassess in accordance with the law. This action has cost the taxpayers of Brookhaven over \$2 million in expenses and lost revenue.

- Inability or unwillingness to eliminate a "Jesse James" assessment policy which

rewards some citizens and punishes others.

No direction has been given to the acting assessor to reduce to writing an assessment policy which is understood by the citizenry and is applied equally and consistently to all.

- Cancellation of Cablevision coverage of Town Council meetings. The administration appears intolerant of citizen criticism. As many citizens, including the elderly, are unable to attend Town Council meetings, the effect of this action is to endorse secrecy over full understanding and disclosure of the decision-making process.

- Politically-based firing of individuals who have obviously performed satisfactorily in the enforcement of sign ordinances and those responsible for the televising of town meetings.

As Mr. Lefkowitz has chosen individuals to serve in his administration from Brookhaven governments of yesterday, including a former supervisor who was rejected by the electorate and who gave us men like Friskey and Sullivan, the time for questioning is now. Citizens of every political stripe are encouraged to initiate debate and discussion of these actions which affect each of us and which mark an early warning that the citizens may be on the road to disaster.

Sincerely,
Mt. Sinai Taxpayers Inc.
Leon J. Campo, President

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 19 NO. 85

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of
192,000 Circulation Weekly

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip; Town of Riverhead; Town of Brookhaven; Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager
Richard Milman - Advertising Director
Lou Grasso - Promotion Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Judith Mc Mickle - News Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director
Dick Kidder - Photo Editor

Maxine Holmes - Production Director
Peter Parpan - Asst. Production Mgr.
Linda Conaughy - Adv. Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County; \$5.00 per year; outside Suffolk County; \$7.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue.

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.

Is Carey Having Trouble Counting?

Governor Carey, in his January State of the State Address, endorsed the concept of the accrual system of accounting for the State of New York.

This would be a welcomed reform, the first in the last 50 years.

The state now operates on a cash accounting system. Under this system you only count the cash in your pocket and the bills you currently are paying. This system does not allow for receivable income nor for expenses coming due in the future. An accrual system of accounting takes not only the current fiscal situation into consideration, but counts projected receivables as well as payables to give a true up-to-date accounting report.

The cash system of accounting leaves room for maneuvering and gimmicks! It puts politics in the budget. Depending upon who is doing the counting, under the present system it may appear we have a surplus of millions of dollars while in

reality we have a deficit. The taxpayers and the financiers of state government have had to rely on this misinformation and it has caused some past financial problems which almost led us to bankruptcy. The accrual system of accounting, on the other hand, is modern and progressive.

The Legislature recently passed a bill to convert the state's accounting system to the accrual method. This legislation is awaiting Carey's signature. It is reported that although Carey supported the accrual system in January, he now has second thoughts. This is unfortunate, for it appears Carey is playing politics. The state's accounting has been subject to abuse for too long. We hope Carey puts politics aside and allows the state to create a sound, modern financial system of record keeping that will end the manipulation and gimmicks used by politicians in the past. And why not?

Worth More Than A Second Look?

The office of County Executive Cohalan recently released a report called the "Impact of the Proposed Peconic County." The report should be looked at in relationship to the entire county government rather than in the original purpose of determining the impact of Peconic County.

The report documents what we have been saying all along. The County of Suffolk is too big, too costly and a disservice to the residents and taxpayers. The report gives comparisons between similar-sized counties and it reveals why we are in such a dilemma. For example, Putnam County has 78,000 residents, the cost per capita of operating this county is \$320. Peconic, with an estimated population of 109,000 and based upon Suffolk's figures would cost \$460 per capita. Dutchess County, with 238,000 residents, operates at \$367 per capita.

Staffing in Putnam County is at 411, or one governmental worker per 189 people. The proposed staffing for Peconic County would be 811 if we duplicated Suffolk, one governmental worker for every 134 citizens. Dutchess County has 1,476 county workers for a ratio of 161 citizens for every county worker.

There are a number of other comparisons you can make. Each indicates not only the proposed formulas used to develop the projected cost of Peconic, but those that pertain to Suffolk show we are over-governmentalized, wasting your hard-earned money. If Suffolk was to obtain an average with the other

counties, in the State of New York, you, as taxpayers, could realize a reduction between 20 and 30 percent in the county portion of your tax bill.

We hope that County Executive Cohalan, his staff, as well as the Legislature read this report carefully, and then take a look at Suffolk and where they can cut it back and still provide the necessary services!

Cohalan's office staff, although it was not their intent, has developed a document that could be a planning aid in redesigning Suffolk's cost wastefulness government to a productive, streamlined organization. And why not?

For a number of years, George Powers of the Mascony Ferry Service has attempted to set up a large, rapid ferry service from the East End of Long Island to Connecticut. When Mascony proposed this concept there was a need for this service. There still is today.

The only other East End ferry service in operation uses ferries much smaller than Mascony proposed - some antiquated, former military vessels. This ferry service often is overbooked. Prior to Mascony's making application, service was on a first come, first served basis. Reservations were not available. Cars had to wait for several trips (which meant hours upon hours) before being able to board.

Powers, seeing the need for opening the East End through rapid, mass ferry service, made application to the Village of Greenport and received approval. He also received approval from New London and ultimately was granted an ICC license to operate. Mascony invested millions of dollars in terminals, ferry sites, boats and equipment.

Before he could become operative, the village fathers of Greenport changed their minds and withdrew their permits and approval. Additionally, they enacted new laws designed to stop Mascony from ever becoming operative. The matter has been tied up in various courts over the last several years.

This past week Mascony withdrew from a suit against the Village of Greenport in the U.S. District Court. There is some validity, although we consider it parochial, toward the Village of Greenport objections to the proposed Mascony mass transit ferry system. But that is all academic now.

The need that propelled this service still is there. The County of Suffolk and some forward-looking municipalities should seek out a ferry site for Mascony. We need additional avenues of escape from Long Island to break our dead-end status. For years leaders have talked about investing billions of public dollars to build a bridge spanning the Sound, a monumental project that would take 20 years to achieve. The real answer has been in the development of high-speed ferry services in the interim.

Mascony has not sought nor is it looking for government subsidies or use of public taxpayer's dollars. It is willing to put up its own money and risk this investment in hopes of making a profit. This should be supported

The government of Suffolk must seize upon this entrepreneur's dreams and help them become a reality through providing whatever services are required in finding a Long Island site to operate from. This should be top priority for the County Executive, the County Legislature and the Suffolk Department of Transportation. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"Begged and pleaded for help"

Open Letter

Dear President Carter:

I am writing to you in hope that you, the leader of this country, would answer or give a reasonable explanation to the following questions.

For over 24 years, the Army Corps of Engineers has been conducting costly studies of the Moriches Inlet, located on the eastern end of Long Island, New York, for stabilization purposes. Instead of extensive study, had proper maintenance been enforced the new breach of the barrier beach might not have occurred.

However, since January of this year, we, the people of Eastern Long Island, have

begged and pleaded for federal help. A breach that is 2,500 feet wide and widening daily is now in existence adjacent to the Moriches Inlet. At a meeting on June 5, 1980 several town, county, state and federal representatives, namely the Army Corps of Engineers, emphatically announced no action will be taken by the federal government until a disaster occurs! Which is imminent, since the hurricane season is upon us.

These various officials and engineers on all levels of government have concurred that 2500 homes and thousands of lives are in jeopardy.

We, as families, are citizens, taxpayers, working people and the backbone of this country and we are being treated as though we do not exist.

General Morris, who is miles away, has decided to take no action to prevent a disaster, ignoring warnings and findings of many officials, including the N.Y. State Army Corps of Engineers, of a potential disaster.

Why does a disaster have to occur? Why do we have to beg for measures and protection?

Our families, our lives, our dreams are in jeopardy government care?

Are we not entitled to assistance since we are in jeopardy?

As the President, are you not going to use your power to end this danger to others in our area?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely,
Two

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 19 NO. 86

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of 192,000 Circulation Weekly

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip; Town of Riverhead; Town of Brookhaven; Village of Port Jefferson.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager
Richard Milman - Advertising Director
Lou Grasso - Promotion Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Judith Mc Mickle - News Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director
Dick Kidder - Photo Editor

Maxine Holmes - Production Director
Peter Parpan - Asst. Production Mgr.
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County: \$7.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

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.