

Jail at Pilgrim?

Governor Carey announced this past week that he intends to open three of the buildings at Pilgrim State Hospital as a medium security prison by July 1st. The idea of establishing a state prison on these grounds has met with almost unanimous opposition from surrounding homeowners and Suffolk County politicians. We think this opposition is based upon misplaced fear and emotionalism.

We have far less to fear from people locked up in a prison than we have to fear from the criminals that are walking our streets. One of the reasons there is so much crime is the justice system is paralyzed by a lack of jails. Criminals are treated to turnstile justice. When apprehended, their lawyers plea bargain their case.

First offense almost always goes free. Second offenders get a slap on the wrist. A criminal has to be a three time loser before he faces jail. The criminal element of our society knows that this is the system. They know there is not adequate jail space to put them away. As a result, they are free to mug, rob and terrorize the communities they live in.

Communities that currently house jails suffer no more crime or outbreaks of violence than those who are far removed. The jails themselves offer a host of employment opportunities for local residents. They add handsomely to the local economy.

The fact that many local people do work as guards, matrons and support personnel, and are from the local environs, means that there are more peace officers within the community. The criminal element knows this and they don't mess with someone who is just as likely to shoot them as let them walk.

Rarely is there ever a jail break, particularly in medium and maximum security jails. The facilities are secure, but if someone is able to break out, they get out of the area as quickly as they can.

We support Governor Carey's decision to convert Pilgrim State to a medium security jail. We hope that the community that surrounds the facility, and the political leaders, study the proposition before blindly opposing the concept.

And why not?

Seniors, Put Your Pride Aside

We don't like welfare or government handouts. Our feelings are the feelings of many senior citizens, yet there comes a time when we have to put our pride aside and we recommend senior citizens do this.

There is available to them, and they should seek them if needed, energy assistance funds to help with their heating bills. To qualify for energy assistance, a single applicant must not have a gross monthly income over \$548; a couple cannot have a combined income over \$717.

We know of many seniors who are surviving on less than these minimums. They are eligible for energy assistance but are reluctant to apply because of pride. The funds are there, and seniors should take advantage of them.

County Executive Peter Cohalan has asked all senior citizens in Suffolk County who wish to take advantage of these grants to call him at his office, or to call the Office of the Aging at 234-2525. The necessary applications will be forwarded to those who are eligible.

The grants range from \$140 to \$160. They are available to both those who own their own homes, and those who rent. Senior citizens whose total energy costs equal or exceed 30 per cent of their household's annual income can receive additional funds.

This program was designed to help those in need and we hope pride does not interfere with their asking for this aid.

And why not?

The United States Coast Guard announced recently that it intends to discontinue a whole host of navigational aids, buoys and channel markers. The reason for this discontinuation, it claims, is the cutbacks in the budget caused by President Reagan's attempt to reduce the size of the government.

In general, we support Reagan's elimination of fat out of the budget. We wonder, though, is it wise to eliminate these navigational aids that every boater depends upon for course plotting and safety? To us, navigational aids are meat and potatoes, they are not a frill, not a service that is whimsical or optional.

Boaters contribute millions of dollars each year in taxes through the fuel that they consume. Marine fuel carries the same federal and state road taxes as fuel used for cars and trucks, even though boats are not used on roads. One would think that the payment of these taxes should entitle the mariners to at least minimum service and the proper marking of channels, sandbars, rocks and points of navigation.

We support Reagan's plan for the

Coast Guard to charge boat owners if they must come to their aid. This is a service above and beyond which should be normally expected. It's the equivalent of a motorist paying individually for a tow, or other assistance, if his car breaks down on the road. On the other hand, the elimination of markers and navigation aids is the equivalent of road signs and traffic lights. Without these, motorists would be lost and so would lives.

If the Coast Guard goes ahead full tilt and removes or down-grades the navigational aids it has announced, there will be a host of boaters who will become lost, have accidents that could have been prevented, and lives will be lost.

We encourage all boat owners to contact their Congressmen and Senator to protest these planned changes. Unless those of us who use the water both commercially and for pleasure raise our voices in protest, we will end up finding ourselves lost at sea, or stranded on a sandbar, with no one to blame but ourselves.

And why not?

letters to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Re: "Ma Bell"

I have a radio shack phone as an extra and would love to give the N.Y. Tel. phone back to them and save the rental fee.

But, what if I have an "out of order" problem? Can't the Phone Co. say it's caused from the radio shack instrument and not a phone company problem?

I'm one of the "poor of the masses" who are trapped by our reliance on the "rich utility gods."

If your article could get only 1,000 people to give back to Ma Bell her phones and buy their own maybe we'd get results. As of now I'm still afraid they'd cut off my service.

Sincerely,
Mrs. A. Saunders
E. Patchogue

Editors Note: Check first to see if the phone you buy is approved for interconnect with the phone company, most are. If there is a problem in the phone itself, of course, the telephone company will not fix it, but if there is a problem with the phone company connection or wiring they must fix it in the same time and manner, whether you own your equipment or rent from them.

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The appointment of republican Tony DeNardo - Newsday May 5th, to a Babylon town job after having been dismissed from three previous jobs leaves another sour taste in the mouths of the average citizen as far as politics is concerned. No one is trying to deprive a man from making a living or supporting his family but as one who worked in private industry, all my life and having to submit resumes on job opportunities, competing for said jobs on a man to man basis regardless of party affiliation, I say lets do it the professional way and not in some back room wheeling and dealing which seems to be the case in this appointment.

All of our town governments in Nassau and Suffolk Counties are riddled with political appointee misfits, all at the taxpayer's expense. Many of these political appointees have the nerve to say that they are only "good ole public minded servants" who could be making twice the money on the outside. Baloney... most of them could not hack it on the outside and found a home working in local town government.

What's wrong with opening up town appointee jobs to the average taxpayer, on merit alone, regardless of party affiliation or do we, who work in the private sector, have bo or bad breath???

Jerry Kelly
Bayport

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This independent Federal Reserve Board! What can we do to get rid of it? Do we as citizens of this great country have anything to say about this group who seem to be controlling our very lives?

It seems that Paul Volcker has no money worries and is quite unconcerned that he is controlling in a bind.

President Reagan is in agreement with what he is doing. What can we as consumers of all types do? Can't the voice of the people be heard? We want to get on with living - the interest rates must be dropped in order for us to get moving in all directions and to see a recovery. We no longer want to wait. We have been patient for so long.

What can we do?
Sincerely,
W. Esposito
East Patchogue

Dear Mr. Willmott:... I just finished reading **Workfare, putting people to work. About time (Welfare).**

I'm all for it, but there's one thing bothering me. When you work off your Welfare check, are you still owned by Welfare?

Example:
Your house or property, do they have the right to take it away? Are the people on Welfare proud of having to sign over their houses to collect support payments which Welfare takes, and then you have to work off your grant.

What can you be proud of then? There are other states where Welfare cannot take your house away from you, what happened to New York? Love it or leave it, that's what we have to say about Welfare. Give the people respect to themselves by not taking away their pride by giving back their homes when they get off Welfare.

Jean Raynor
Patchogue

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SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 21 NO. 41

and Suffolk County Life

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

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Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

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Patchogue
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Three Villages

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Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

They Hold the Balance.

John Behan, Republican, Assemblyman from the 1st A.D., George Hochbrueckner, Democrat, Assemblyman from the 3rd A.D. and Paul Harenberg, Democrat, Assemblyman from the 5th A.D. control the key votes to override Governor Carey's expected veto of a New York State death penalty bill.

Under our present laws, a brutal cold-blooded premeditated killer, if caught and convicted, has nothing more to fear in retribution for his crimes than a penalty of 25 years to life. The life portion of the sentence is a joke, unless he dies of some natural causes early in his sentence. The 25-year sentence, with time off for good behavior, means he can be out on the streets on probation after serving as little as eight years. That's not much of a deterrent for willfully ending someone else's life.

During the last five years, the Legislature has voted a death penalty bill to deal with premeditated murder in the first degree. Governor Carey has vetoed this bill because of his personal beliefs and opposition to taking someone else's life in retribution for the life they have taken.

During this time, Carey and the Legislature have failed to come up with a change in the current law that would have required life imprisonment without any hope of ever being released for any cause. A bill of this magnitude might have stilled the anguished cries of the citizens for a death penalty bill.

This year, the Legislature passed a bill that gives a judge the discretion in sentencing of imposing the death penalty, life imprisonment without parole, or a lesser sentence. This bill is a reasonable compromise, not as strong as some would like to see, but strong enough to make those who think about killing to think about the consequences. The bill passed with

sufficient votes, but it is projected to be one or two votes shy of the numbers needed to override Carey's expected veto.

John Behan was ill on the day of the vote. According to his aide, he would have voted against it because he felt the bill was too weak and hoped that, next year, the Legislature could pass a bill much stronger and we would have a Governor who would sign it. We think Behan was wrong. Sometimes, a half a loaf is better than none at all.

George Hockbrueckner, is opposed to the death penalty as is Paul Harenberg. This is their personal belief which, we believe, is in contrast to the desires and views of their constituents. There comes a time, particularly on special issues of this nature, when a Legislator has a responsibility to vote the conscience of his district rather than his own.

In our opinion, when a Legislator refuses to vote the opinion of his district and uses the collective power that his district has placed in him to impose his own personal beliefs, he has failed in his duties to his constituents. He has given up his right to be a Legislator. He most assuredly should not be returned to office by those he has voted against.

We encourage you to let these three legislators know emphatically how you feel. Call them at their office, write them a personal note or use the form printed here to indicate your feelings on this issue. These Legislators must be made to realize how you feel. Only if they know you will vote this coming November, in their quest for re-election, based on this single issue will they take heed and show the responsibility that they were elected to execute.

Mail these forms off today, for Carey's veto is expected momentarily and an attempt to over-ride this veto can happen at almost anytime.

Tuna Need Protection Too!

A few years back, the United States enacted a 200 mile offshore limit bill which gave us control of the waters off our shores, what floated on top of them, what swam in them and the mining and minerals under them. It eliminated the rape of our fisheries by sophisticated foreign fishing fleets,

which included those of our allies and our enemies.

Since the passage of this measure, some of the fisheries which were almost depleted have started to come back. Tuna was excluded because of the demands made and the politics played by the super conglomerates on the west coast that own and operate

**Assemblyman John Behan
Room 523,
Legislative Office Building,
Albany, New York, 12224**

Dear John:

I am, (am not) in favor of the passage of a death penalty bill in the State of New York, Your vote on this issue will determine how I am going to vote on your re-election.

Signed:

Address:

**Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner
Room 622,
Legislative Office Building,
Albany, New York 12224**

Dear George:

I am, (am not) in favor of the passage of a death penalty bill in the State of New York. Your vote on this issue will determine how I am going to vote on your re-election.

Signed:

Address:

**Assemblyman Paul Harenberg:
Room 748,
Legislative Office Building,
Albany, New York, 12224**

Dear Paul:

I am, (am not) in favor of the passage of a death penalty bill in the State of New York. Your vote on this issue will determine how I am to vote on your re-election.

Signed:

Address:

huge tuna fleets which regularly invade other countries' waters. The Japanese, who are proficient fishermen and who have mastered the art of long-line fishing, immediately seized upon this loophole and have applied unbelievable pressure to the American tuna fishery.

The most devastating damage was done off the Gulf coast where the giant tuna spawn. It's known as the nursery. As these huge fish came into the area to reproduce, they were met by the Japanese who all but wiped them out, as well as the future breeding stock of the giant bluefin tuna.

The Japanese also have, in the past few years, been fishing their long-lines off the Long Island-New Jersey coast. Last year, there were a few who worked the depths of the Canyon. They were highly successful in taking big-eyed yellow fin tuna and true albacore. This year, we understand there will be 18 or more such operations because tuna is not included in the 200 mile limit.

When the long-lines are fishing for tuna, they also catch, as incidental catch, prohibited fish, such as swordfish, marlin, sharks. They are forbidden by law to take these fish even though they are often brought up dead.

Last year, commercial fishing had one of the worst swordfishing years ever off our coast line. They blamed their miserable catch on the Japanese long-liners. Credence was given to this by a deal that had been made between a Montauk sportfishing boat and a Japanese long-liner: the

American sportfisherman laid alongside the long-line boat and as the swordfish was brought up they were thrown back in reach of the sportfisherman. On one three day trip, the sportfisherman is alleged to have brought into Montauk over 20,000 pounds of swordfish, worth over \$50,000 at wholesale value. As the story goes, their "catch" was so large that they disrupted the Fulton Fish Market and were threatened by mobsters with the sinking of their boat if they continued their profitable sideline.

There is legislation proposed that would include tuna in the fisheries management plan under the 200-mile law. Our Congressman from the First District, William Carney, is a member of the sub-committee that has been bottling up this legislation. Until just this past weekend, Carney has been less than active in pushing to have this law moved out of committee onto the floor of the House for a vote.

During this past weekend, however, Carney met with a number of local fishermen who have researched the matter thoroughly, and have been pushing for the passage of the pending legislation. As a result of that meeting, Carney has now agreed to co-sponsor the legislation and work for its eventual passage. We're happy that Carney has seen the light. We can only hope he makes up for his previous inaction now with a very aggressive push to have this legislation adopted. It's time common sense and the preservation of our fisheries prevails over the interests of profit. And why not?

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VOL. 21 NO. 42

and Suffolk County Life

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Hampton East
Mid Hampton Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Seiden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

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Carey Vetoes Death Penalty

As expected, Governor Carey vetoed the death penalty bill passed by the Senate and Assembly. This is the sixth consecutive time he has thwarted the wishes of the legislature and the people of the State of New York.

This year there is a chance the legislators can override this veto. All that is needed is for a few Assemblymen to change their minds and agree to vote "yes" for an override. Three of the legislators are in the Suffolk Life circulation area. They are John Behan, Republican, First Assembly District; George Hockbrueckner, Democrat, Second Assembly District; and Paul Harenberg, Democrat, Fifth Assembly District.

These men may be persuaded to change their vote if they thought their political life was on the line. You, the people who are represented by these Assemblymen, who favor the death

penalty, must contact them immediately. Call them, write to them.

It's time we stopped politically pussyfooting around with this measure. Judges must have the same option that wanton, cold-blooded killers exercise. We need a law that provides a life for a life, an eye for an eye. Contact these legislators now. Their phone numbers and addresses are:

Assemblyman John Behan, Room 523, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York, 12224. Telephone Number — 516 - 668-5656.

Assemblyman George Hockbrueckner, Room 622, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12224. Telephone Number — 516 - 928-7788.

Assemblyman Paul Harenberg, Room 748, Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12224. Telephone Number — 516 - 979-5155.

And why not?

Preserve By Limited Development

We empathize with those who advocate the preservation of Robins Island. Robins Island lies just off New Suffolk in the middle of Peconic Bay. It comprises approximately 450 acres of beautiful land.

The island has been privately owned for centuries. It has been primarily used as a hunt-summer retreat by rich men, men who could afford to keep 24 hour, seven day a week, guards on the island to keep those not specifically invited off.

A local story has it that Governor Carey, a couple of years ago, landed on the island with a friend, uninvited. He was not much more than out of his boat when the ever present jeep driven by a guard accosted him and told him to leave. He allegedly tried to explain that he was the Governor of the State of New York and was promptly told that they didn't give a damn who he was, he was not an invited guest and if he did not remove his person he would be treated the same way as anyone else, with a

round of rocksalt in his derriere. Carey allegedly left.

It is this kind of protection this island needs if it is to remain the paradise it has been.

A group of concerned citizens have banded together and formed a committee for the preservation of Robins Island. They are asking the taxpayers of Suffolk County to spend what they claim will be \$3 to \$4 million dollars to purchase the land. We understand the present owners are under contract to sell the island for \$6 million, so in all likelihood if the land is condemned, the county would have to shell out \$6 million, plus condemnation costs, legal fees, plus another \$6 to \$9 million in bonded interest to finance the acquisition. Most likely the final figure would be in the \$15 to \$20 million dollar range.

The Robins Island group then wants the island turned over to the Nature Conservatory to be run under their auspices, with only limited intrusion by county residents, strictly

for nature walks and study purposes.

If the residents of Suffolk County feel that they own this property, which they would if the county purchases it, we doubt very much they are going to stand still being denied access to the island. Public pressure would be brought by residents to open the island for public use. Residents will want to pull a boat up on shore, and spend the day picnicking and frolicking on the unspoiled beaches.

We would expect the hunting interests to demand the right for limited hunting on the island as the island contains a large population of deer, rabbits, squirrels, pheasants, and is uniquely situated as a waterfowler's paradise. Other interests, such as campers, would also bring pressure to bear.

The Nature Conservatory has an excellent record of preserving lands which are under their control. We doubt though they have the facilities or the funds that would be necessary to guard this pristine land 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, which currently is accomplished through private ownership. At what point would the Nature Conservatory have to say, "We can no longer afford the manpower necessary to provide adequate protection without aid from the town, county or the state?"

There is another way of preserving the island: by limiting development as is proposed under the current owners' proposal. They request they be allowed to develop 28, and only 28 homesites, on the 450 acres. Each homesite would be a private estate. In developing the homesites, maximum care would be taken to protect the

ecological balance and the natural terrain and beauty of the island. The island would be developed as a private sanctuary, which could afford the services and the personnel necessary to keep it private and unspoiled.

Just 28 homesites on a 450 acre parcel is absolutely idealistic planning. The land itself would remain in private hands, thus continuing to pay taxes to the schools, the town and the county. All services required would be provided by the homeowners themselves. The community would not be required to provide any of these services.

We believe only through private ownership could guards be maintained that would keep people off the island. We have seen too many other properties taken over by the government that, once in public hands, have been destroyed by vandalism and wanton disregard by the public. The prime example that comes to mind was the county's acquisition of Cedar Point in Sag Harbor. This point and the lighthouse were maintained by private interest. They were guarded and kept up. Only a year after the county had taken possession of the land it looked like it had been bombed out, the historical lighthouse, with all its irreplaceable fixtures, had been wantonly vandalized, reduced to rubble.

We agree with the aims of the Robins Island committee, but not their method. We feel the only way it can be properly preserved is through limited development and private ownership.

And why not?

Vote Now, Pay Later

Last month, Governor Carey vetoed almost a billion dollars in budgeted state spending that had been passed by the State Legislature. In vetoing these items, Carey asserted they had been passed by the Legislature without regard as to where the money would come from to fund them. The passage of these items was reckless and fiscally irresponsible.

Last week, at a late night session, the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democratic-controlled Assembly restored many of these cuts. This action followed much political wheeling and dealing, and it now appears there are sufficient votes to make this approval veto proof.

This is an election year for the State Senate and Assembly, as well as for Governor. Governor Carey is not running for re-election so his motives in vetoing this billion dollars in excessive spending is pretty much above reproach. He has nothing to gain or lose politically by leaving the State to the next Governor in good financial shape.

The Legislators, on the other hand, are up for re-election and we believe they have taken the easy way out. Vote now for the goodies and worry about how to pay for them and what taxes would have to be increased next year, when they are not running for election.

The items that Carey had vetoed run the gamut from local and school district aid to nonsense projects that are good for individual Legislators in their districts, but are of no value to the people in the State.

The restoration of these cuts will encourage more reckless spending and wasted tax dollars. To finance these restorations, new taxes will have to be imposed. What will it be, another one per cent in sales taxes that everyone will be forced to pay? An increase in personal income taxes that will drive more senior citizens and executives out of the State of New York? Increases in corporate taxes that will encourage job producing companies to leave New York, creating more unemployment?

The form of these new taxes won't be debated seriously until after the new Legislature is convened. Mysteriously, there will be a financial crisis created by a shortfall of projected income. The Democrats will blame the Republicans. The Republicans will blame the Democrats, but who is really to blame? Our local, weakkneed legislators who bargained away your earnings and income to buy votes for themselves this coming November. It doesn't make any difference if they are Republican or Democrat.

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The Time Is Now

A Suffolk Life survey which probed the feelings of county residents over the possibility they may be one day asked to evacuate their homes as a result of an accident at the Shoreham nuclear plant reveals the depth of feelings that exists, quietly, in the minds of the public.

Many people are genuinely afraid, fearful they will be asked to leave their home and possessions behind while they flee possible radiation contamination, and even more fearful that there is no logical escape route because of the geographical nature of the island on which they live.

This fear will be compounded in the future if talks between Suffolk County officials and those of LILCO do not produce an equitable settlement on the best way to achieve a fair and thorough inspection of the nuclear plant. Those talks stalled this past week, and unless there is more cooperation shown by LILCO, they could well be stalled for good.

What LILCO apparently doesn't realize is what they are building at Shoreham has the potential to affect people's lives in a disasterous way. If there is an accident at Shoreham - a serious accident - the effects will not be limited to LILCO's property or to its facility. It will spill over into

surrounding areas, it will drive people from their homes. It could well cost lives.

Without a full inspection of Shoreham with county officials completely involved in all aspects, Shoreham should not be permitted to open until every conceivable threat, every possible weak link, is found and corrected. Shoreham should stay closed.

We are soon coming to the point, we fear, that the public is going to have to become more involved, to speak out in favor of full inspections, to stand up and be counted in the fight to preserve Suffolk County from becoming a nuclear wasteland. There's a lot at stake: health, homes, personal possessions, constant fear of a possible mishap, the very nature of Suffolk County as we know it today.

We would urge the public to flood their county legislators with letters supporting a full inspection that satisfies the concerns of all parties, not just LILCO. Unless the people speak out on this issue - and not depend on others to do their fighting for them - they may well have to live with the consequences of nuclear disaster.

And why not?

Suffolk's The Winner

Around the first of the year, word began to circulate that Peter Cohalan, county executive of Suffolk, might make an active bid for the gubernatorial nomination. Our first reaction was that Cohalan still had a job to do as County Executive. He was too green and needed more aging to make the step to the Governor's slot.

We approached Cohalan and his political leader, Anthony Prudenti, with our fears. Surprisingly, they both agreed. Pete explained that too little attention was being paid at the Albany level to Suffolk County and suburban problems. The upstate group, as well as the city faction, take care of their own. They do so at the expense of the suburbs.

Looking at the numbers, particularly the numbers generated for major candidates by Suffolk, it was clearly indicated that although we are the dog, we don't get to wag the tail.

Pete said he was going to throw his hat into the ring to bring attention to the suburbs' problems in hopes it would help to flush out qualified candidates who could be made aware of suburban problems and, particularly, the problems faced by Suffolk County residents.

Prudenti felt if he had a favorite son candidate he could use for bargaining power, he could accomplish two goals: First, to make sure the party's candidate for governor realized the value of the Suffolk vote and could be maneuvered to pledge to address Suffolk's problems if he became successful.

Second, he was determined to make sure Nassau Republican leader, Joe Margiotta, could not be in a position to sell the Long Island block of votes for his own power and prestige.

Margiotta, during the Cohalan campaign, had attempted to step into Suffolk politics and gain total control of Republican votes not only in Nassau, but in Suffolk as well. Because of the prior weak leadership in Suffolk, and Margiotta's strength as Nassau leader, when he spoke or committed Nassau he, by fiat, committed Suffolk.

Prudenti effectively used Cohalan's favorite son status to block the nomination for Governor of Ned Regan. When Lehrman became a candidate and brought with him the qualities that Cohalan brought to the County Executive's position, Prudenti offered Lehrman Suffolk's support. Cohalan withdrew as a gubernatorial candidate and announced his support for Lehrman. He then announced his candidacy for Lieutenant Governor. Again, with the same motive in mind: make sure Suffolk is recognized, with pledges to remember it after election.

The obvious choice of just about everyone was Assembly Minority Leader James Emory for Lieutenant Governor. Emory has been a substantial friend of Suffolk as Assembly Minority Leader. Cohalan, using his favorite son candidacy, by this time with a substantial war chest available to him for a primary race for this position, succeeded in dissuading others not to seek this spot, holding it

On the third ballot, Lehrman was acclaimed the official candidate of the Republican party for Governor, with almost 70 percent of the vote. Cohalan announced at 10 a.m. the following morning that he was withdrawing from the Lieutenant Governor's race, and introduced Jim Emory as the next Lieutenant Governor of the state.

Paul Curran, will run a primary against Lehrman for the position of Governor. Many political pundits felt this is imperative if the Republicans are to be successful in November. History has told them that if there is a primary race on the opposing side, the winner of this primary has a huge edge that is often insurmountable, because they have owned the

July, August and September.

The way we see it, the big winner at the Republican convention was Suffolk County and the Suffolk Republicans. They got what they went after, recognition of Suffolk and its importance in any race, plus a pledge to address Suffolks', and other suburbs' problems on the state level.

Prudenti politically broke, once and for all, the Margiotta hold on Long Island. In fact, he trounced Margiotta's candidate, Curran, by supporting Lehrman early and effectively.

It's been far from a dull political winter and spring. The summer and fall look even more intriguing.

And why not?

letters to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The present and past performance of the State Public Service Commission clearly demonstrates it has failed miserably in regulating the utilities throughout the State. There has been absolutely no protection for the public against the continued blatant demands of the New York Telephone Company, as well as the Electric and Gas Power Industries. The latest demands of the L.I. Lighting Company for a large increase would give its Stockholders a profit of 18.2 percent according to Thomas S. Gulotta, the Supervisor of the Town of Hempstead. This would be without a further rate increase request later in the year for the cost of building the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, plus the purchase of all necessary items for it to commence operation.

L.I. Lighting Company projects the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant will not pay for its being operated as a Nuclear Power Plant until 1995, and still has no sane method to dispose its lethal waste.

T.A.S.C. insists that all members of the P.S.C. be elected by the public and that they sign a pledge not to work for any utility for a three year minimum period after they discontinue their employment for said Commission. We are most insistent that all members of the Public Service Commission be elected by the voters, as we have been burned too many times in the past. Partial election of its members is completely unacceptable to the New York State public.

We would appreciate your advising us in what you personally are doing and plan to do in making this demand possible before the coming November elections, because we are only interested in helping those elected officials who are looking out for our interests and not those of the large corporations and unions.

T.A.S.C. also protests the huge lobbying program being attempted by the State Unions to have the taxpayers take over the 3 percent

that State workers now contribute toward their pensions. This would result in the public paying hundreds of millions more taxes in the most costly State to reside in. State workers are already paid on the average better than those in the private sector.

Please let us know what you intend to do to protect us against the greedy unions and utilities.

Sincerely,
Norman F. Jacobs
Vice President
Rocky Point

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Face saved, — Lives lost!
What we the people have speaking for the Falkland controversy is a multitude of sound and fury, signifying nothing but Machoism, totally devoid of the Wisdom of Soloman. I don't propose to speak for Soloman, but it seems to me that the Falklands consist of two separate islands. Why couldn't a world body like the United Nations propose that the islands be shared by England and Argentina. Either nation can raise their flag and claim sovereignty over one half of the islands. Can anyone suggest a better condition for Peaceful relations if the half facing the sea lanes belong to England and the other, facing the mainland belong to Argentina. This situation is the nucleus for friendly relations between two different languages and customs without involving two Macho sabre rattling nations.

Anything other than this suggestion may result in a multitude of Tombstones inscribed "Face Saved — Lives Lost."

Sincerely for Peace,
Michael A. Graziano
Lindenhurst

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and Suffolk County Life

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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Elect The Public Service Commission

There is a bill in the legislature that would split the Public Service Commission into three agencies. The first agency would be a quasi-judicial body that would rule on rate requests of the utilities. The second would be a bureau of consumer advocates which would act as a spokesman for ratepayers. The third, would be a compliance and enforcement office that would have the investigative powers to monitor utilities' responsibilities and adherence to public service regulations.

This bill is a huge step in the right direction and would address some of the more serious problems that have been raised concerning the P.S.C. and its regulations of the utilities. We think to put real teeth into this law, a companion measure should be passed that would make the Public Service commissioners elected officials rather than appointed by Governor.

Under our current structure, once commissioners are appointed by the Governor, for a specific period of time, they are free of further in-

fluence or control by the Governor and, as a result, have no direct link to the public.

Charges have been bandied about that commissioners appear to be in the hip pocket of the utilities, acting more as puppets of these utilities than as protectors of the public. LILCO's Bokum Ridge case dramatically and graphically added credence to these charges, as the P.S.C. granted LILCO's request without independent verification of facts or public hearings.

Where utilities have become such a major item in everyone's budget, in many cases consuming as much as 40 per cent of the buying power of individuals and businesses, tighter regulations are needed.

A combination of splitting the P.S.C. into three proposed agencies, combined with the commissioners themselves being elected rather than appointed might bring fairness and justice to a system that is totally lacking in it.

And why not?

tion, but we felt much less comfortable with the gerrymandered lines which denied representation to the people and would last for 10 years.

We hope the courts will take the bull by the horns and develop non-partisan lines for Assembly, Senate and Congressional districts, hopefully, that will keep developments, school districts, fire districts, villages, town

boundaries, and geographical areas cohesive.

The taxpayers have already spent millions of dollars on redistricting. It's a shame the politicians thought so little of the public and our system of government that they felt they could get away with such blatant subterfuge.

And why not?

Show Your Colors

The Fourth of July is our country's birthday, a day for all good Americans to stand up and reaffirm their belief in our country and the system of government under which we live.

Fly the flag high and proudly. Let our streets and homes be decorated with the red, white and blue as an affirmation of the freedoms which we enjoy. Let these stars and stripes fluttering in the breeze say to one and all, "I am an American citizen, and proud of it. I am free to think as I like,

express my opinion, choose my religion, hold wealth, bear arms, and own property, read what I like, choose my education."

We have so many freedoms here that we take much for granted. This day gives us an opportunity to show our pride. Let's do it.

If you do not own a flag, buy one. Fly it with pride from dawn to dusk. Let there be no question that we are proud to be Americans. And we love our country.

And why not?

Letters to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am pleased to see that in your editorial of April 21 you reached a conclusion that the Public Service Commission reached a few years ago: it makes more sense for telephone subscribers to own their own phones than to continue to rent them.

For the last couple of years we also have issued more than 200,000 leaflets describing the economic benefits of ownership of premises wire as well as phones and explaining how subscribers can switch to their own phones and wire.

That availability of telephones and wires from other sources was one of the factors that the Public Service Commission considered in allocating the bulk of the revenue increase it has approved in recent rate cases to telephone terminal equipment. Further, the Commission directed the company to apply those increases so as to maximize its profits from those competitive offerings and apply any excess profits toward holding down the basic monthly phone bill.

The use of that procedure has helped to limit the increase in basic monthly access charges — the only unavoidable cost of getting service from New York Telephone — well below the rise in the Consumer Price Index for the last 10 years.

If any reader wants a free copy of the leaflet Guide to Owning Your Phone and Wire, just send the request to:

Telephone Guide
Department of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

And why not?

Very truly yours,
Francis S. Rivett
Public Information Officer

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Just a note to let you know, we live in the Islip-Bay Shore area, and we support the correctional facility at Pilgrim, and we were glad to see your editorial in support of it. When you erase the baseless hysteria away, you have a number of intelligent and worthwhile reasons for creating such a facility at Pilgrim, and we hope that reason wins out in this controversy.

Thank you,
P. Guim & Family
Bay Shore

Dear Mr. Willmott:

After kicking around for 66 years, raising a family to be honest, obey the laws, respect the rights of others, as I did myself, I find it not to be the best policy, but the policy contrary to be very rewarding as in the campaign for the election of the Middle Island School Board of Antos, Weiss, Anastasi.

As an example, the flier enclosed was stuffed into mail boxes without stamps. I went to the Post Office and asked why they stopped the Boy Scouts from doing this, and not the three candidates.

I was told the parties doing this were already informed it was illegal, but that didn't stop them. Meanwhile the incumbents campaigned by the book (the trickery won, the incumbents lost).

Now I ask you "What price honesty." The Boy Scouts stopped - punishment, a warning. The politicians didn't - punishment? Nothing, but now members of the school board.

What a society!

Vinny Becker
Middle Island

Editor's Note: We are aware of at least one instance where the losing candidates — or their volunteers — also placed campaign literature in a mail box in the Middle Island School district.

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Read your editorial about using New York State Police on the Long Island Expressway "an interstate highway."

I don't know whether it affects the legality of your argument - but I don't believe the L.I.E. is an interstate highway - I've always understood it was just a New York State Highway. Albeit it does carry an Interstate Highway number - ie - No. 495. I am not familiar with the details of the politics which were involved when it was built, but if you check into it, I believe you will find my understanding to be correct. I believe 495 is an interstate highway only in New York City.

Cordially
Harry Carr
Hampton Bays

Dear Mr. Willmott:

We would like to express our sincere thanks to you for printing the news release we mailed to you last month.

We should also like to inform you that the article was most helpful in informing the community about Recovery's activities. We have received an influx of telephone inquiries, and some potential new members have been interested to attend our meetings.

Thank you so much for your kind cooperation.
Sincerely yours,
Barbara Peller
Public Relations Representative

Back To The Drawing Board

The courts have thrown out the politically designed gerrymandered redistricting of the legislative and Congressional districts. Because of this, it is questionable whether we will have elections on November 2.

Nominating conventions have been held to designate candidates to run in what people thought were going to be the new districts. The courts threw out the politically-drawn lines on the basis that they created a racial imbalance. Undoubtedly, knowing political minds, these boundaries were created to take advantage of or to avoid ethnic groups in particular areas to insure that incumbents would win re-election.

The lines were so badly drawn that we understand one assembly district has been created that runs from the Vermont border to almost the Pennsylvania line. There is no major road that traverses the district, nor is there any way that a single Assemblyman

could physically keep in touch with all his constituents.

Right here on Long Island, the districts were drawn to accomplish political ends rather than serve the public. As an example, the new First Assembly District runs from Orient Point to Centereach. It drops down from the sound to Ridge, winds through and cuts in half developments, and has no regard for community or traditional boundaries.

The Second Assembly District is almost as horrendous, as are the others within our circulation area. These lines were drawn primarily with the hope that the Democrats could pick up additional seats. The Assembly lines were drawn by the Democratically-controlled Assembly.

If the Republicans controlled the Assembly, it probably would have been the same story.

We do not feel comfortable with the postponement of a November elec-

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Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
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Seyville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
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