

if willmotts and why-nots
David J. Willmott, Editor

7 sisters go for the weak spot

The seven large international oil companies making up the cartel which raised fuel prices have shown they are responsive to consumer reaction. As customers, we have shown we can cut back our gasoline consumption. As prices escalated during the artificial 1973 fuel shortage, we changed our driving patterns and reduced our consumption substantially. The oil companies kept raising prices till the retail price hit the 60 cent level. At this point the consumers' rebellion began to make an impact. Most major oil companies reduced their prices a few cents, yet the average rise in gasoline prices between January 1973 and January 1977 amounted to 73 per cent. During this period, fuel oil and electric costs were also skyrocketing. The American Petroleum Institute insisted the increase was being caused solely by the selfish, money-hungry sheiks in the Arab world.

The consumer had fewer alternatives to cut his consumption because of his electrical and heating needs. Turning down your thermostat from a comfortable 70 to a cool 63 only saves about 7 per cent in fuel, not enough of a savings to warrant being uncomfortable.

There are few financially feasible heating alternatives for the homeowner to turn to. Fuel oil and electric consumers are what might be called captive customers. The seven sisters realize this, and the cost of fuel oil between January 1, 1973 and January 1, 1977, shot up 130 per cent. This rise is 78 per cent higher than gasoline. Oddly enough, gasoline is a more highly refined fuel and should have reflected the additional refinery

costs caused by inflation.

It appears obvious to us that the American consumer has been manipulated by the seven sisters. It was not only the Arabs, but the greed of the American international oil companies that has caused the crippling rise in petroleum prices.

We are a nation of people who have become dependent on our government to protect us. We have cried out in every imaginable way for the government to do something to stop this rape. Nothing meaningful has happened on the federal level.

Why?

You do not have to look far to find the answer. Our government is just as greedy as the oil companies.

Our federal government, our state government and our county government all benefit from increased oil prices.

On the state and county level they share in the 7 per cent sales tax we pay on gasoline and fuel oil. On the state and federal level they share in the use and transportation taxes that are levied against gas, diesel and other fuels.

They both share in income taxes paid by the oil companies.

If you were getting rich or having your treasury filled with increased taxes on energy and petroleum, would you be in any hurry or feel any necessity to hold prices down? This is the way our government looks at the high cost of energy and petroleum products.

Most government officials no longer consider themselves of the people or for the people; they see their existence only as a third force that only looks out for itself. And why not?



Make D of C & I work or get rid of it

In Suffolk County government there is a Department of Commerce and Industry. It's supposed to be the sales arm of the county. The D.C.I.'s purpose is to extol the virtues of the county, attract job-producing industries and money-laden tourists who will use our recreational facilities.

In a business, the sales arm is the most important segment of the operation. If you don't sell, you don't produce; and if you don't produce, no one works.

We don't expect government to operate exactly as a business, but we do expect it to have more common sense than to make the sales arm a dumping ground for burned-out politicians.

When Gil Hanse ran against Lee Dennison for county executive, he lost. Gil had been one of the good ole boys. He played the game according to the rules. Although Gil was defeated, he had another year or two left before he could become eligible for a taxpayer paid pension. His cronies in the legislature wanted to reward him for his years of faithful service.

They put him out to pasture by appointing him commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Industry. His performance as commissioner was that of a retired politician who was only marking time.

The effort of the department to attract tourism and industry has been abominable. Other than placing a few ads with King John's picture in obscure journals, almost nothing else was done to sell Suffolk County. Despite the great exodus of businesses from New

York City, Suffolk wasn't even given a tumble. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Westchester County, and even upstate New York have reaped a bountiful harvest. They actually went out and solicited these fleeing companies.

Eastern Suffolk's tourism belt has eighty million potential customers within an eight hour drive of its beautiful beaches and recreational areas. But, Suffolk County's Department of Commerce and Industry has done little to sell this valuable asset. The results of this inaction are high unemployment, high taxes and a weak retail economy.

Hanse has been elected the new county Republican chairman. This will be a full-time job for him. A successor will be named in the near future to head up the Department of Commerce and Industry.

The county government has a choice. It can fill this position with a dynamite executive who knows marketing, merchandising and promotion who will obtain results, or it can put one of the party hacks into the slot again, pasturing him out until retirement, as they did with Hanse.

The Department of Commerce and Industry desperately needs to be headed by a true professional who can produce results or the county legislature and executive should eliminate the department altogether.

We would be better off saving the tax dollars we invest in this department than have it run as a rest home for political rejects. And why not?

SUFFOLK LIFE
NEWSPAPERS

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200 mile limit- now make it work

On March 1, 1977, the United States put into law a two hundred mile limit on the waters surrounding the country. We now claim absolute and sovereign right to all fish and sea life under this jurisdiction.

It is with pride and satisfaction we take note of this event, as Suffolk Life through its editorial pages, was one of the earliest and most persistent proponents of this measure.

Hopefully, we as consumers can look forward in the future to fresh fish once again appearing at reasonable prices in our fish stores and supermarkets.

Having a two hundred mile limit does not mean, however, that foreign fishing vessels will not continue to fish off our shores. Our government has decided to allow fishing by foreign nations for sea life considered to be in plentiful supply. The harvesting of this food will be by permit and subject to regulations. The State Department's lopsided concern for the welfare of the world is responsible for this.

Prior to the passage of the two hundred mile limit, foreign fishing vessels fishing in the waters were overseen by an international commission under the United Nations. Foreign vessels have an abominable history of violating the

fishing rules and regulations. Sizes of nets, tonnage allowances, and species of fish allowed were all constantly violated. This led to the near wipe-out of the breeding stock of many fish Americans were accustomed to consuming. During the last decade, catches by the American fishing fleet were reduced up to 75 per cent, even though their boats were going farther and fishing longer.

The job of patrolling the vast amount of ocean covered by the two hundred mile limit is enormous. We hope when violators are caught, they are not let off with just a warning. Instead, our federal government must prosecute violators by seizing ships, their catch, and imprisoning both captain and crew. All other boats fishing under the foreign flag of the violators should be banned from harvesting any sea life within the two hundred mile limit for at least a period of years, if not permanently.

Unless we act tough and enforce the rules stringently, right from the start, foreign nations will defy our rules and regulations, making a shambles of the two hundred mile limit. We will be right back where we started again and the American consumer will never be able to consider fish a part of a regular diet. And why not?

Is court-ordered property reassessment fair?

The courts have ordered all property be reassessed or revalued for tax purposes at its current market value. They also have ruled against the practice of assessing commercial and industrial property at a higher rate than residential property, and therefore, homeowners will be forced to absorb the reduction in taxes paid on these properties.

The courts have determined it is more equitable to have everyone paying on an identical basis, using the current market value of the property as the base for levying taxes.

The towns involved will incur huge expenditures, as it will be a mammoth job to reassess every individual piece of property. It also will force towns to install costly computer technology to keep the tax rolls updated each year.

Reassessment will drive numerous senior citizens out of their homes. Some will be forced to flee, others will turn to welfare as their sole means of being able to afford to stay on Long Island.

Reassessment will mean new homeowners will enjoy temporary reductions in real estate taxes, but this reduction will only be temporary. Speculators will grab at this opportunity to point out this tax advantage to new home buyers.

As these new homeowners move into the towns affected, they will bring with them increased demands for services. To meet these demands, taxes will once again have to be raised on everyone, and it will not be long before those in the affected towns will be paying higher taxes than under the old system.

Wouldn't it be fairer and more equitable to all concerned to levy a fixed tax on a home at the time of construction based upon the fair market value of the house? This levy would remain constant except for changes caused by inflation. The levy at the time of construction would be representative of the fair share of the cost of the municipalities' services rendered at the time the ownership was established. The homeowner would have the security of knowing what his payments were going to be over his ownership of the house.

The mortgage payments of \$100 that included everything a decade ago, today, cost most homeowners \$300. Very few people have had their incomes increased by 300 per cent, yet this is what is needed to continue to own a home on Long Island.

The future even with reassessment looks even bleaker. What the courts were seeking is a

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Do it on Long Island

LILCO and the Long Island Association have embarked on a joint campaign to encourage people to vacation right here at home. They have chosen as their slogan, "Do It on Long Island."

We all know this cute title has a double meaning. One of these meanings has a sexual connotation.

It is easy to see why LILCO is so comfortable with this slogan. They have been "doing it to Long Island" for such a long time and doing it so well that now they want to brag about it.

Just take a look at the tourist industry this campaign is supposed to help. LILCO did it to them in a grand style last year. Through a quirk in the law, quickly discovered by shrewd lawyers, they are able to charge the motels, restaurants and resort businesses up to 85 per cent of the bills they charged them during the summer through the winter when they are closed and not using any electricity.

There is no question LILCO does it on Long Island. They do it regularly to homeowners with their estimated bills, fuel adjustment charges and constant rate increases.

They are doing it to Long Island's environment by trying to build a massive nuclear power complex having the potential to affect lives and property for a radius of 80 miles.

Yes sir, we couldn't think of a better slogan for LILCO to come up with than "Do it on Long Island." They are masters at it. And why not?



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Fight salt water licensing

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A bill to license salt water fishermen has been introduced into the New York State Legislature by Assemblyman Roland Kidder and State Senator Jess Present. Both of these legislators are from upstate, an area not affected by salt water fishing.

Depending upon their migratory patterns, salt water fish can roam as much as 6,000 miles in a year.

Because of this fact, the state Conservation Department can do

There is no legitimate purpose for creating licensing of salt water fishermen other than to create another area of taxation for the state government. These politicians can't stand the thought of the public being able to do anything for free.

Upstate politicians probably have forgotten the reason why fresh water licensing fees were established.

The original intent was for license fees to be used for conservation purposes. They were to support fish hatcheries and build better fresh water fishing conditions.

Fresh water fish constantly need to be restocked in order to rebuild their numbers to sufficient quantities to satisfy fresh water anglers' demands. It is only fair and just that fresh water anglers pay for this service.

The reason salt water licensing had never been passed is that these fish are migratory. Salt water fish are not restocked. These fish are spawned in many different areas - swordfish are spawned in the Mediterranean and tuna in the Caribbean. Both are sought by local fishermen off Long Island.

little to rebuild salt water stock. The biggest danger salt water stocks face is foreign fishing fleets that deplete the marine resources.

Salt water licensing will create a hardship and additional regulations on these anglers. Salt water licensing will diminish Long Island's tourist industry. This industry has been hard-hit and does not need further restrictions placed

on it by the state.

If New York does establish this licensing procedure, it quickly will be followed by surrounding areas. This will cause mass confusion, as Long Island's salt water fishing grounds touch New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

It will be almost impossible for a fisherman to determine in which state he is fishing and which license

he must have.

Some things in life should be free. The right to pick up a pole and fish in salt water should be one of them. We expect our downstate and Long Island legislators to vigorously fight this upstate move. There is no logical reason to license salt water fishermen. And why not?



Our 16th Anniversary

Where does the time go? It seemed only yesterday Suffolk Life was just a concept in the back of my mind.

My idea for Suffolk Life, in the beginning - was to develop a newspaper from an advertising standpoint, which would provide the business community with a medium reaching every conceivable homeowner within the market, at the lowest possible rate.

I also wanted to create a newspaper that would belong to the readers. Suffolk Life still does. We are not owned, nor do we owe our editorial soul to any individual, group or political party.

Suffolk Life is fiercely independent. We take strong stands on various issues while always trying to be fair to those about whom we are writing.

Rather than try to convince our readers to our way of thinking, we attempt to challenge them to think for themselves, form their own conclusions and go out and fight for their convictions.

When Suffolk Life was started in 1961, we reached as close to 100 per cent of the homes surrounding the Riverhead market that could be

humanly delivered. Here we are, sixteen years later with one of the largest, successful weekly newspaper groups in the country.

We publish fourteen, localized editions, twice a week, and we are still delivering on a voluntarily paid basis to every home in the eastern half of Long Island.

In 1961, our best advertising rate for a column inch of space in a 10,000 circulation paper was \$1.75. We have a new rate card going into effect April 1, 1977. The best rate for a column inch of space in an edition with 10,000 circulation is \$1.65.

Suffolk Life was an outstanding advertising buy in 1961. After sixteen years of unmerciful inflation to have a rate 6 per cent below your 1961 price is a near miracle. We have been able to do this by continually expanding, taking advantage of the latest in technology and having a staff that is productive and efficient.

A newspaper is a very personal thing. The people who enter the newspaper business do so out of desire to be of service to the community as well as a means for earning a living.

Like many businesses, a newspaper is only as good as its individual parts. Suffolk Life has been extremely fortunate in being able to attract people who are dedicated, who work far above normal requirements and give more than 100 per cent of an expected effort.

They care about the newspaper they are publishing and continually strive to publish a better one every edition. This holds true from the publisher straight through to our carriers.

We all know we are working for the greatest people in the world, you, our readers.

In this coming year, we plan on working as hard as we have in the past and are 100 per cent dedicated to bringing you an even better paper.

On our sixteenth birthday and as publisher of Suffolk Life I want to thank you, our readers and each member of our staff for the opportunity to serve you for a decade and a half. And why not?

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Housewives nightmare

Housebound women unite! You are about to be attacked with the unholy nightmare of nightmares.

The Board of Regents in Albany wants to unleash your darling of a child upon you for five continuous weeks of concentrated vacation at the height of the winter.

In a harebrained scheme to save energy, the Regents is considering extending the spring session up to the last week of July and starting school the last week of August. They then will be giving your children back for five to six weeks between mid-December and the first of February.

They feel this move will save fuel because they will be able to maintain the heat in schools at 50 degrees as long as there are no students there.

Gads, can you imagine having oodles of kids to contend with for six weeks when they are housebound and have nothing to do?

If this is a move to economize and save fuel, we suggest that the Board of Regents consider what effect this will have on the mental hygiene department and the strain it will place on these institutions. And why not?



Why not \$10.00 per hour?

Labor unions and liberals have mounted a campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$3.00 per hour. They want this jump of 33 and one-third per cent to take place effective June 1.

This is absolutely ridiculous. No family can live comfortably on \$120.00 per week. Everybody should be entitled to live as comfortably as the next person.

The unions and the liberals should be demanding a minimum wage of \$10.00 per hour. In that way, we will have no poor in this country and we all will enjoy a minimum income of \$20,000 per year.

With a minimum wage of \$10.00 per hour, nobody will be held back, either. If they are smart, sharp and hard workers, they can earn several times the minimum. We must remember -- a minimum wage is not a maximum wage. Anybody in this great, free country of ours who has the drive and determination can earn any amount of money they desire.

Raising the minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour will have no different effect on our economy and buying power than raising the minimum wage to \$3.00 per hour. Whether your hourly wage is \$2.25 an hour, \$3.00 an hour or \$10.00 per hour, it will still buy the same six pack of beer.

We all have at least a basic understanding of the law of economics, and know the more it costs to produce something, the more it must sell for. It all comes out in the end.

Raising the minimum wage to

\$3.00 per hour or \$10.00 per hour will have the same effect on unemployment. Both will wipe out low-paying jobs.

Businessmen will sit down with their pencils and calculators and determine it is more economical to automate. There are less headaches with a machine that does mundane jobs than there is with an employee who has emotions, feelings and ever-increasing financial needs. Once the investment is made in the machine, the costs remain stable while employee demands continually increase.

Whether you raise the minimum wage to \$3.00 or \$10.00, it will have the same effect on young blacks who suffer the highest rate (26 per cent) of unemployment. More of these young men and women will be unable to find jobs, and out of boredom and frustration will become easier subjects for dope pushers.

How will the middle class be affected by this proposed increase in the minimum wage? Some salaries will be pushed up because the bottom is being pushed up. These salaries will not automatically rise one-third, but the cost of the goods and products people must buy will. Some jobs the middle class presently holds will be done more economically by automated machines. Therefore, the job opportunities will become more and more scarce.

Will the rich benefit from unemployment? Not really. They will not be hurt as much as those who are at the bottom on the mid-

range of the economic scale. The value of the industries, banks, and businesses in which they have invested, will increase in value proportionately with the increase in inflation, so will their profits and dividends in dollars even though the percentage will remain stable.

Is there any individual or any segment of our economy who will benefit from an increase in the minimum wage?

Of course there is. Big Brother himself. Uncle Sam and all his little bureaucrats will have billions of dollars more of your tax money to spend.

You see, the federal government, through the progressive income tax system, raises the percentage of money it takes in every time your income is raised. Even if you receive a raise to keep up with inflation, your real buying power is diminished because you are paying a larger percentage of dollars as well as more in taxes to the federal

and state governments.

You can bet your sweet bippy our President, senators, congressmen, governor and our state legislators are fully aware of the devastating impact this will have on you, but they will not lift a finger to stop it because as Congressman Otis Pike said, when we discussed the unfairness of the progressive income tax system with him, "The government has need for money, too."

Whether the minimum wage is raised to \$3.00 or \$10.00, it is going to have the same adverse effect on you.

Why fight it? Let's pay everybody \$20,000 per year so we can all be rich and take a wheelbarrow of money to the supermarket each week to buy our groceries.

Welcome to Fantasyland, U.S.A. And why not?

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Taking the teeth out of the Taylor Law

The New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) have had a bill introduced into the legislature by Assemblyman Stephen Greco (D-Buffalo) to repeal the two-for-one and one year probation penalties in the Taylor Law.

Under the Taylor Law, public employees, such as school teachers, who go on strike, now forfeit two days' pay for every day they are out, and they are placed on a one year probation, losing all rights of tenure. At the end of this period, the district may terminate employment without bringing a teacher up on charges and holding a hearing.

When teachers strike, they are not striking against the district or the school board, they are striking against the students who are there to learn and the taxpayers who pay the bills.

Students and taxpayers need and deserve all the protection they can get against what has become a militant labor organization.

Teachers in New York State receive the highest wages of any in the nation. Their fringe benefits far surpass their fellow teachers in other states. These factors cost

New York State 40 per cent more to educate their students than the nation's average. But, being at the financial pinnacle of their profession is not enough for many teachers; they want more.

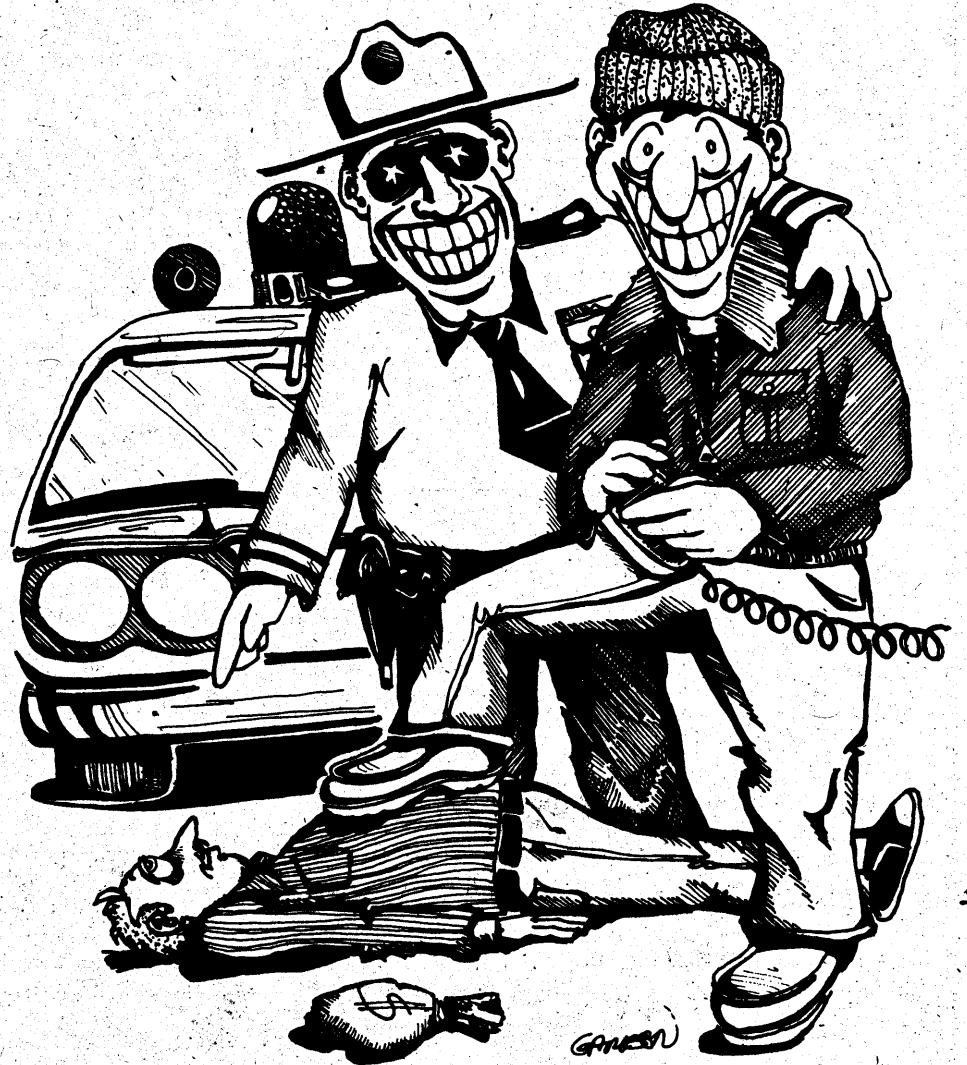
They have no qualms about calling a strike or using any other organized labor tactic necessary to obtain their goals.

When labor demands are excessive in free enterprise, the business has a choice of meeting them or closing down. In the end, the profits of the company and its ability to be competitive dictate financial settlements with labor.

With public employees there are no profits to be called on to pay labor settlements, only taxpayers. This is the reason why we have a separate labor law for public employees, and another for employees from the private sector.

If teachers do not face any penalties for violating the Taylor Law, greedy public employees will have no qualms about striking and disrupting necessary services.

If there are to be any revisions of the Taylor Law, they should be to toughen the penalties to protect the taxpayer. And why not?



Smokie's good friend

Mobile C.B. radios are a paradox.

Many drivers install them in their cars in an attempt to get one foot up on smokies (cops) and avoid speeding tickets.

Ironically, the C.B.'s have placed the "good buddies" in closer contact with the cops. A rapport has been developed that has been beneficial to both.

In listening to the chatter on a Citizen Band radio, you frequently hear a C.B.'er calling for a smokie. He is relaying information about drunken or reckless drivers, motorists in trouble and other unusual circumstances. Because of their anonymity, C.B.'ers are not reluctant to become involved when

they see a situation they do not feel is strictly kosher. This, in effect, gives the police eyes and ears in multiple directions.

Some municipalities have installed C.B. equipment in police cars, others have been reluctant to do so. Some conscientious police have gone ahead and installed equipment in their squad cars at their own expense.

Because of their widespread use, a Citizen Band radio could become a vital link between the community and the police. We encourage the police departments and municipalities funding them to seriously consider C.B.'s as standard equipment in all police cars. And why not?

Why do they need cars?

The use of cars by county employees is a sore spot with most people. This newspaper constantly gets letters from readers questioning the practice and wanting to know why the use of these automobiles is treated so liberally.

Confirming the suspicions of many Suffolk County taxpayers, an analysis, made by Frank LoCorriere for the county legislature, shows a large proportion of the vehicles are assigned to bureaucrats with executive titles. They are little

more than a fringe benefit.

Most cars, LoCorriere found, are not necessary for the performance of their official duties, used mostly to transport these bureaucrats back and forth to work or occasionally from one county officer to another.

The report indicates it would be more economical for the county to pay them a mileage allowance for actual county business rather than provide with county-owned and operated cars.

We hope the legislature will act on these findings. And why not?

Selling excess power

As we reported before, LILCO has instituted a ratchet clause through which seasonal businesses will be forced, when closed, to pay up to 85 per cent of their seasonal usage of electricity.

The unfairness of this regulation boggles the mind.

Power companies pride themselves on regularly selling their excess power to each other. They point to their cooperation with pride. They claim by doing so they are able to keep rates down.

If power companies can sell their power back and forth, why can't seasonal operators?

If a resort in Montauk is going to be forced to pay for 85 per cent of the electricity they use during the summer over the winter, why can't they sell this power to a business that uses substantially more power in the winter?

Wouldn't this equalize the power demands over a full year, which is the reason LILCO gives for demanding this rip-off?

If a summer user could sell his winter excess to a winter user, everyone would come out even, and nobody would be "doing it" to anybody. That's fair isn't it? And why not?

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Published twice a week except last week of year in 13 market zone editions on Wednesday and Sunday



Total circulation audited and verified or sworn to be in excess of 189,000 Circulation Twice Weekly

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North Fork
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Why did they try to silence O'Brien?

With the release of the special prosecutor's report, it became clear District Attorney Henry O'Brien was the target of an unethical and ruthless campaign to silence him.

O'Brien was the first independent district attorney elected in Suffolk County in almost 200 years. From the start, it became obvious no one could control him.

Even though he ran as a Democrat, O'Brien was elected by the people. Not forgetting that, he has carried out his pledge to rout out crime and corruption in Suffolk. He warned from the start he didn't care who was involved in wrongdoing, rich or poor, influential or not, if your hands were not clean you would be a target for his investigations.

O'Brien quietly and efficiently put together a staff of professionals, many from outside the political arena. His worst mistake was keeping former colleagues who were part of the political system that had run this department for years.

As the department became organized and started to dig and the digging got close, the uproar developed. Eugene Kelly, police commissioner of Suffolk County, announced he was bringing charges against O'Brien for alleged homosexual activities. O'Brien was clean and there was no other way he could be discredited except to take advantage of his marital status of being single.

A special prosecutor was brought in to investigate these charges and the charges O'Brien had levied against Kelly. In this past week, when the report was released it indicated Kelly had used his office improperly and suggested that the county legislature reprimand or remove him for these acts.

Now that the air has finally been cleared, the question should be answered as to why such dastardly and reckless charges were brought against O'Brien in the first place.

What was there to hide? Were O'Brien and his staff getting too close to the real corruption in Suffolk County? This is a question every resident of Suffolk County should be asking themselves.

O'Brien now is free to dig into areas that he was hampered from during the investigation.

We hope he is able to find the answers to these questions and once and for all rid Suffolk County of official corruption. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Sixteenth annual beach plea

Suffolk Life has been in existence 16 years. For 16 years we have asked our town governments to set up reciprocal arrangements with neighboring towns so that each can use each other's beach facilities.

All but Brookhaven Town have either the Sound or the ocean to offer their residents. They don't have both. By simply agreeing with their neighboring towns to honor their beach permits, it would open up the facilities of their neighbors to their own residents. This

would greatly expand the recreational opportunities of both towns.

In the years that we have been requesting this simple maneuver, we have yet to come across anyone who can give a logical reason for it not being accomplished. Almost everyone recognizes that each town is unique and different in its assets, and the adjacent town has other assets which they lack.

If the town boards reached an agreement, North Shore residents

would have the ocean at their disposal, while South Shore residents would be able to utilize the Sound. It would cost the towns nothing to do this and would make each town more valuable to its residents and taxpayers.

For the sixteenth time we call upon our town boards to show wisdom and at least try a reciprocal agreement. What do they have to lose? Look at what is to be gained. And why not?

The issue that should be debated

This coming November, Suffolk County residents will elect a new county legislature. All 18 seats are up for grabs.

As the candidates emerge, they will present various issues for consideration. Some issues will be valid, others will be presented to hide the real issue: "How much government do we want in Suffolk County and what are we prepared to spend to achieve it?"

Suffolk County residents have watched their real estate taxes double and in some cases triple over the last decade. During this period, our county budget has gone from under \$100 million to over one-half billion dollars.

Two years ago, during the county legislature race, candidates avoided this issue. They spoke of building new parks, four year colleges and county hospitals. Approaching this year's election, we find candidates proposing county-owned mobile home parks, mass transit systems and other enormously expensive programs.

Most of these programs are special interest-oriented. These are issues people become emotionally involved with and cloud the real issue of how people can afford to pay their taxes to support these grandiose schemes.

We hope during the next few months the legislative candidates

will speak out on what they consider to be the function of Suffolk County government. As a potential director of this one-half billion dollar enterprise, we want to know how they propose to operate it. We would like to know what their priorities are and how they feel about raising taxes to achieve them.

We hope that you, the voter, will question these legislative candidates closely and not allow them to confuse you with programs and platforms that are fine for Utopia, but must be supported through the taxes on your home and property.

When a legislator proposes a new program, ask him how he intends to pay for it. Find out what new taxes will have to be raised or what existing program would be eliminated to fund this new scheme.


You have a right to ask questions and to expect an answer. The legislative candidates are asking to be your representative, they want you to hire them to run this county.

How they will act after they are in office will be greatly dependent upon how much you are able to pin them down before you vote for them. Don't wait for November to seek answers to your questions. Find the candidates whom you believe in now and then work for their election. And why not?

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Dear Otis,

Well it looks like Mother Nature is on our side this time. We got past the full moon without a good northeaster, and didn't lose the east end of Dune Road to the Atlantic. The inlet is still in horrendous shape. We have lost more of the jetty on the northwest end.

You know, Otis, there are over thirty full-time commercial fishing boats working out of Shinnecock Inlet. The condition of this inlet determines not only the livelihood, but also their health.

I don't know why it is you politicians have to wait until there is a tragedy to act. Shinnecock Inlet is essential to our commercial fishing industry as well as tourism.

The maintenance of navigable waterways is the responsibility of the federal government. You have spent enough time around the water yourself to understand why these inlets continually need to be revitalized. As the sand comes down the coast from the east, it builds up into shoals and these shoals must be removed for safe navigation.

Right now all we need is for the inlets to be dredged out and the jetties to be repaired and rebuilt where needed. It would be best to build a sand bypass system. This could continually keep our inlets opened and replenish the beaches to the west.

Otis, you are our congressman and you have told us that you work as hard as you can for us. Are you working as hard as you can to get and to keep these inlets opened? We sure hope so. And why not?

According to this morning's news reports, Mobil Oil is moving its corporate headquarters from New York City to Fairfax County, Virginia.

Corporations are fleeing New York City in droves. As convenient as the city is, they can't stand the place it has become. Its executives fear for their lives and are fed up with daily commuting to

the city and the abuse they endure when they get there.

Suffolk County should be reaping a golden harvest from these moves. We have so much to offer corporations.

Many of the corporate executives have homes here in Suffolk. They spend the better part of the year here, full-time in the summer, part-time in the spring and fall. We

have the quality of life they are seeking.

The Suffolk County Airport at Westhampton is a prime site for corporate headquarters. It offers the advantage of long runways, landing systems and a tower capable of handling corporate jets.

We have land reasonably priced. Municipalities have the power to grant tax incentives. We have excellent personnel available, the quality and type corporations are looking for when they make a move.

Unfortunately, Suffolk is overlooked as a potential site, because no one is out there selling it. This is the function of the industrial commissioner.

The position of industrial commissioner of Suffolk County, however, has been a patronage post instead of heading a working department.

A new commissioner for the post will be named within the next 30-45 days. There are several excellent candidates seeking the job. They have the experience, the background and the desire.

Most of these lack, though, former political involvement and we fear for this reason they will be by-passed. Suffolk needs industry and jobs. A good solid, working industrial commission handled by a real pro could produce both.

Encourage your county executive to appoint an experienced promoter as industrial commissioner and not allow this department to be used any longer for political patronage. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Warning:

The Federal government may be dangerous to your health

Last week the federal Food and Drug Administration banned saccharin. They acted upon the findings of a Canadian research project.

It is reported the Canadians force-fed rats the equivalent of 600 bottles of diet soda per day over a seven year period. The rats developed ulcers. Based on this startling scientific evaluation, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concluded: saccharin may be a danger to your health.

The majority of people in the U.S. use a saccharin sugar substitute almost daily. Most diet foods and beverages are prepared with a sugar substitute, but even with sugar substitutes being so widely used, in the wildest stretch of our imagination a glutton couldn't consume the equivalent of 600 bottles of soda a day.

It's ludicrous for the FDA to impose an outright ban on sac-

charin based on the Canadian study.

Almost no one disputes that cigarettes are a major contributor to cancer and heart disease. Yet, the American public is allowed to consume any amount of tobacco they desire. The government only

orders a warning be placed in all advertising and on packages that cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

We are suspicious of the FDA's outright ban on saccharin. It's too coincidental this ban comes when sugar inventories are at a peak and

prices have been forced to near normal.

Three years ago, sugar jumped from under 10 cents to over 50 cents per pound overnight. Many consumers switched to sugar substitutes. Sugar became a glut on the market and prices were forced down. Many consumers who made the switch have never gone back to sugar.

Is there a parallel between the size of the industry and the political muscle it has and the alleged danger of its product?

Why are cigarettes, a known cancer producer, allowed to be produced and marketed with nothing more than a warning to the consumer while saccharin, with an adverse effect that is questionable, at best, be banned outright.

Is the ban on saccharin another good reason for us to be suspicious of Washington? We think it is. And why not?

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Carter raises milk price 8 cents

Worried about social insecurity

President Carter agreed to a government milk support increase that will probably raise the price of milk by eight cents per gallon.

On April 1st, our government will increase milk supports by 74 cents per 100 pounds of milk. Carter's recommendation is 9 per cent above the current support level and 4 per cent higher than the National Milk Producers Federation was seeking. The federation is a milk producers' lobby in Washington.

You will pay for this increase in two ways. Every time you buy a gallon of milk, you will pay eight cents more at the supermarket. You will also pay for it through your federal income taxes.

The federal government got into the support business during the Depression. When people were fleeing the poverty-stricken farms for the good life of the inner cities, the federal government concocted a scheme of price supports to encourage rural America to stay on the farm.

These price supports guaranteed the farmer a minimum price for his produce, regardless of the market. To qualify, the farmer had to agree to limit the acreage he would farm or the size of the operation. These acreage levels were set before modern technology radically changed the agricultural business.

Since technology, the yield per acre has increased manifold. Price subsidies did not keep together the family farm. In fact, it worked to cause its demise.

Large corporations and rich businessmen entered the agricultural business. They bought up the family farms and with them the federal supports. Today, these large corporations are reaping millions of dollars by the government keeping agri-production artificially high. This, of course, results in the homemaker paying artificially higher prices for foodstuffs at the supermarket level.

President Carter campaigned on being for the people. Since his inauguration, he has gone out of his his way to relate to the average person. We find his authorization for the milk support contradictory to the image he is attempting to build.

Milk is a staple in most families' food budgets. To be forced to pay an additional eight cents a gallon to, in essence, support large agri-corporations, is in direct conflict with Carter's statements that he is for the average person.

We wonder if Carter's former and his family's present involvement in the agricultural business has not colored his judgement.

Carter has indicated he wants to hear from the people. If you are

concerned about your milk costing eight cents more a gallon, why not let him know how you feel? And why not?

Social Security is probably the least understood program of the federal government; yet, almost every working American con-

tributes directly and indirectly about 12 per cent of his income to its support.

Most of us have been led to believe this contribution is being put away for our old age. Social Security will be there to take care of our retirement and to pay for the majority of our medical costs after we reach the age of 65.

The contribution that we make today is not put away for our old age, it's being used to fund current programs that recipients currently are benefiting from. Many old people have been shocked to find how little, and in some cases, nothing they receive in benefits when they reach 65.

We ran across a case recently that disturbed us. It is a blatant case of discrimination.

It involves a woman whose husband had accumulated Social Security credits up to his death. She remarried a man who was younger than she. He is still working. When she reached 65 she was notified by Blue Cross that she was being dropped from her husband's policy.

She went to Social Security, expecting to be able to obtain Medicaid at a cost of \$6 per month, which is the normal charge for those covered by Social Security. This woman was told she was not eligible. Even though her first husband had sufficient credits accumulated they were invalidated by her remarriage.

Her second husband also has paid into Social Security since 1937, but she is not allowed to take advantage of his credits, because he is not old enough to retire. Social Security now charges her \$54 per month and it will go to \$64 as of July 1, to enroll her in the Medicaid program.

A blatant case of age and sex discrimination, it shows the law is written against women who remarry or who marry a man younger than themselves. All these years she and her husband have been under the mistaken impression that his contribution to Social Security would help them through their golden years.

This isolated case punches a hole in the value of Social Security. Ironically, if she had chosen to live with this man and not marry him she would be eligible to collect benefits and participate fully in the Medicaid program.

Because she is older and did the socially acceptable thing of marrying, she is discriminated against.

This case should serve as a warning to all of us who look at Social Security as a sound investment. We fear Social Security will become social insecurity as the years go on. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



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The County of Brookhaven

The Southern and Northern Brookhaven Leagues of Women Voters issued a report recommending the town officials set up individual mini-master plans for the various hamlets in the town.

They point out individual hamlets in Brookhaven Town have no local identity and are facing difficult problems in planning for their future.

Brookhaven is the largest town in the state of New York. It is larger in land mass and population than the majority of the counties in New York State. Brookhaven is made up of diverse geographical, and sociological strata. There is almost no feeling of unity you normally find within a town.

It is rare to hear somebody say, "I'm from Brookhaven". When you do hear this, you automatically assume they are from the hamlet of Brookhaven, which is located between Patchogue and Mastic.

Brookhaven as a town contributes significantly in taxes to Suffolk County. It receives a disproportionate amount of services back and has been forced to duplicate some of the county services.

This past winter, for example, there was a serious outbreak of crime in the Bay area. Residents requested additional police protection, but were told the county could not afford it. In desperation, they formed vigilante patrols. The resulting publicity forced the county to reassign the manpower to help control the situation.

If Brookhaven was a county, the need for vigilantes probably never would have surfaced.

The smaller the unit of government, the more responsive it is to the needs of its residents.

Brookhaven is too enormous to be a town. What is good for Stony Brook is not necessarily good or desirable for the Bay area. Each individual hamlet should have its own identity, an ability to identify and solve its own problems, and control its destiny.

This could be achieved if each hamlet was a town within the county of Brookhaven. The League of Women Voters has done an excellent job in revealing the need for home rule of the individual hamlets.

An investigation by the league of the financial, social, and governmental feasibilities of Brookhaven becoming a county and hamlets becoming towns should be a natural outgrowth of their recommendation.

The alternative to the town becoming a county is for the individual hamlets to vote for incorporation and become villages.

Villages themselves give the local residents the power and right to determine their destiny.

As Brookhaven grows, the pressure for individual hamlets to seek local autonomy will become greater and unless the town itself moves to become a county, Brookhaven will become a town of villages.

The time is now for Brookhaven to look to the future to become the proud County of Brookhaven. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Our poor Congressman

We have been a long-time admirer of Congressman Otis Pike. At times at odds with him, other times we have agreed with him 100 per cent.

Pike recently went before the House and debated the ethics bill. Pike and the rest of his colleagues had just allowed their salaries to be increased from \$44,600 to \$57,000 annually.

Anticipating an uproar, they brought before the Congress a so-called ethics bill. The bill forbids a congressman from earning more than \$8,625 in outside income while serving as congressman. Pike bemoaned allowing rich congressmen to accumulate the unlimited dividends and other forms of investment income.

The reason for the \$8,625 limit is to stop congressmen from selling themselves as lecturers and earning enormous fees for doing so.

America is fed up with politicians who have used the sacred honor of being a congressman to build enormous financial empires.

Look at two of our recent rich past presidents. Lyndon Johnson started in Texas without a proverbial pot. By the time he retired as president he was a multi-millionaire.

Nixon was straight out of Depression days poverty in California. When he resigned as president he also had amassed millions in wealth. Neither of these men became millionaires on their salaries as congressmen, senators or presidents.

These two men are only two of the better known. Literally hundreds of men have gone to Congress as poor and middle class citizens. They walked away from these hallowed



RED LIGHT DISTRICT IN CONGRESS?

Some congressmen are first-class bores as speakers; yet, they have pulled down \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year in earnings from lecturing.

What they are being paid for is not their oratory skills. Their political souls are being bought.

For a lecture fee, they are selling their support to industries, organized labor and whoever else wants to buy their precious vote in Congress.

This bill does favor rich congressmen who have their wealth tied up in their investments. It does penalize the congressmen who were not rich before reaching Washington and feel they must earn more than \$57,000 a year to be comfortable.

The position of congressman is still considered to be in the realm of public service. The men and women who serve in Congress should look at this privilege as more than a way to getting rich quick.

halls enormously wealthy.

This wealth was not bestowed upon them by a fairy godmother. It was accumulated by their selling their favors to the highest bidder.

The salary congressmen are now paid, plus liberal retirement funds and an enormous scope of fringe benefits is more than adequate compensation for a public service position.

Pike is right - the ethics bill is unfair to those who have not already accumulated fortunes. That will be a penalty people will have to pay to be congressmen.

The unfairness is minute when you compare the lack of ethics congressmen have displayed in the past.

They have turned this time-honored position damned near into the oldest profession in the world. Pass the ethics bill. And why not?

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