

## Indexing proposition for state

Assembly Republican Leader James L. Emery has introduced legislation for indexing State income taxes to inflation. In announcing the proposed legislation, Emery said, "This measure will help protect New Yorkers from the vicious cycle of inflation triggered tax increases." Emery is dead right.

For the past four years Suffolk Life has been editorializing about the injustice created when inflation pushes people into higher tax brackets, and forces them to pay larger percentages of their incomes for taxes. You the taxpayer have been unwittingly taking it on the chin while the state and federal governments reaped the benefits.

You have probably wondered why you cannot keep up with inflation despite raises which seem large.

If in 1969 you made \$10,000, you paid income taxes at a rate of 14 per cent. Assume a 1969 dollar bought a dollar's worth of goods and an equivalent salary today is \$20,000. By the standards of 10 years ago, today's dollar is only worth 50 cents in actual buying power. If we were not operating under a progressive income tax system, you would be breaking even. But, because we operate under a progressive system of taxation that is supposed to equalize people's wealth, you now are considered rich, and instead of paying 14 per cent of your income for taxes you are paying close to 36 per cent to the government. Your tax obligation on \$10,000 in 1969 would have been \$1,400 leaving you with \$8,600. Today your tax liability based on the \$20,000 inflated income, is \$7,200. That leaves you with an inflated \$12,800, which is actually worth \$6,400, 1969 dollars. Because the progressive income tax has not been indexed to inflation in 10 years your buying power has been reduced by \$2,200.

This example is typical of what has happened to most of us. The effects of inflation on the progressive income tax system is the real problem. It increases state and federal govern-

ment revenues and has eliminated the need for a legislative income tax increase. It is the reason why the government has been involved in wild and reckless spending and why none of us can manage to keep our heads above water these days.

The Emery bill will bring long overdue relief to the situation. Through a formula, it adjusts income taxes to reflect the impact of inflation. As our salaries increase to compensate for the effects of inflation, the tax base and the various tax brackets are

adjusted so we do not end up paying more in taxes than the real value of the dollar.

There are currently no measures before the state or federal government of more importance. Until both state and federal taxes are indexed, inflation will continue unchecked and our economy will face financial ruination.

As urgent as the need for prompt action on this bill is, do not be surprised if it goes nowhere. Politicians on both sides of the aisle are opposed to a law that mandates indexing. Inflation has been the saviour of many of these politicians. They point to the percentages and say they have not increased taxes. Technically they are right. But as a taxpayer, you know you are paying more in taxes than you ever did.

Unfortunately the national media has paid little attention to indexing. They feel it is too complicated a system for people to understand. As a result, outside of Suffolk Life, you

have probably seen few articles dealing with this solution. You can show your knowledge and your support for this measure by writing directly to Assembly Republican Leader James L. Emery, Assembly Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224.

When we interviewed the legislative candidates each professed a knowledge of this measure and supported it. Even though most are Democrats and this is a Republican bill, write them and ask that politics be put aside long enough for them to put their names on the bill as co-sponsors. Ask them to go amongst their fellow legislators and lobby for the passage of this proposition.

If by some miracle the New York State legislature passes this bill, and the Governor signs it, perhaps enough publicity would be generated so like Proposition 13, the nation and the federal government would be forced to wake up. And why not?

## Violence has no support

Organized labor fell lower in the eyes of the people this past week. New York is experiencing a school bus and a milk strike and it has been alleged that strikers resorted to wanton violence to win their point. Tires of cabs ferrying handicapped kids to school were slashed. Milk trucks also had their tires slashed, and in at least one case, a truck was riddled with bullets.

This is not the 1930's when that kind of tactic might have been supported by masses of underpaid and over-worked laborers. Do the unions have to resort to this kind of violence to command attention? They don't win any friends or influence people by their actions. The average person looks at these actions, particularly those against children, as despicable. If anything, it prompts them to side

with management. Strikes should be settled through civilized negotiations. The victim of a strike should be the management not innocent bystanders. We hope those responsible for these acts of violence are caught, charged and punished to the fullest extent of the law. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "I hope you get the point now"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am still wondering how a man who was perceptive enough to see Perry Duryea for the champion taxer he is can miss the point so badly on the problem of inflation.

In your editorial on the State Of The Union address, you slammed Carter for paying 'lip service' to the tax revolt. But, he introduced a budget with a drastic reduction in deficit,

with dead aim on further deficit-shrinking next year. Pretty good, to do it without jilting our NATO allies or meat-axing much-needed help to the poor.

As for your view on the causes of inflation, it's shallow. It's partially caused by government deficits, but other major causes may have more impact; other causes like:

- huge corporate & personal debt;
- shriveling productivity levels;
- waste in all sectors;
- the highest big-corporate profit margins ever
- advertising beyond the point of diminished returns;
- oligopolistic industries like steel and autos which rig prices and borrow instead of using their capital gains;

• the drive for an ever-higher standard of living.

Even on the tax issue, the view was narrow; most of the leap in taxes comes where most of the jump is spending comes from -- LOCAL government (state and municipal). The only thing that Carter can do about this (aside from use of the "bully pulpit") is to nationalize welfare. Indexing has tied the Canadian government's hands in doing what the nation needs; with our urban and health-care problems, it would prove to be a straightjacket for America.

I hope you get the point now. Sincerely, Robert H. Longman, Jr. Sayville

### "I feel this letter is necessary"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am writing to you in my capacity of Administrator of Regina Residence regarding the article which appeared in the Port Jefferson Edition of Suffolk Life on Sunday, January 21, 1979. I feel this letter is necessary as there is some misinformation quoted by Ms. Block.

It is true that Regina Residence will relocate in Merrick. However, the statement that we will continue to charge \$49 per day is completely untrue. Neither is it true that

Regina Residence was "doomed to obsolescence from the start." Since our opening in 1969, close to 1,000 young women have been provided with comprehensive services.

Despite the fact that the program was underutilized it was kept open because of the commitment that Catholic Charities has to provide service to these young women.

Sincerely, Margaret M. Berkery Administrator

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## Why are we being panicked

For almost two decades, oil prices in the United States were stable, then, in the early 1970's, the major oil companies seized upon the disruptions in the Middle East as an excuse to boost prices.

The ensuing shortages, manufactured or real, provided the justification for nearly doubling the prices of nearly all petroleum products.

In 1974, home heating oil costs jumped from 25 cents per gallon to around 45 cents, and gasoline rose from less than 40 cents per gallon to over 60 cents.

During the latter part of 1978 and the early months of 1979 prices have jumped as often as twice a month. Again the blame for these outlandish increases has been placed on the problems in the Middle East and in Iran.

We have been fed a steady line of

bull that the supply of oil is in a perilous situation. Yet, it is common knowledge that there are super tankers filled with oil at sea, throughout the world, ready to unload their cargo when the price is right.

The scarcity of oil is no more real in 1979 than it was in 1974.

The cause of the increased prices is the same as it has been in the past; the greed of unregulated, uncontrolled American oil companies.

The federal government plays into the hands of the oil companies by accepting, as gospel truth, information presented by the American Petroleum Institute, the oil companies' lobbying group. What is even worse is the panic created by the government with their talk of rationing. Not only is the idea frightening, but the government is coming up with totally unrealistic rationing plans that will favor the

very rich and those who live in cities where mass transportation is a reality.

About half of America grew up during WWII, and we have at least a vague recollection of the hardships and corruption that accompanies rationing. But the other half of America doesn't have any idea of how rationing will affect them. Maybe this is good because younger people tend to be more vocal, and you would have near riots on the streets if they didn't believe the government and were badly inconvenienced by a rationing program.

It's bad enough we must pay the absurd increases to the oil companies because they are no longer competitive, but when we turn to the government for help, it refuses to allow even normal competitive forces

to operate. The oil companies today are stronger and more effective than they were during the early days of John D. Rockefeller. The government either by design or incompetency is doing nothing to change this situation.

As much as it hurts, most of us will adjust our lives so we can maintain an auto, heat our homes and use the electricity to run our machinery and illuminate the darkness. We have no choice, but on top of paying exorbitant charges, we don't need artificial rationing that will create additional hardships.

What this country needs is another Teddy Roosevelt who would speak softly to the Seven Sisters, and, if they didn't listen, take his big stick and beat the hell out of them. And why not?

## Rally around the bluefish

Bluefish are considered the least attractive game in the sport fishing world, because they are overly abundant, and because many people prefer dry, flaky fish and bluefish is oily. The bluefish, however, is the backbone of sport and recreation fishing, and it is destined to go the way of the tuna if purse seiners are allowed to harvest them.

The purse seiners traditionally followed the tuna from their spawning grounds in the Gulf of Mexico up the coast and had no need for bluefish. But the establishment of catch limits on tuna have forced them to revise their practices.

Under the current regulations, the limits are generally reached by the middle of June when the bluefish first hit our shores in great abundance.

During the last two years, a preserving process has been developed that allows bluefish to reach the Eastern European and Asiatic markets in a palatable state. These markets have created a tremendous demand and, as a result, the purse seiners want authorization, so when their tuna limits are reached, they can come into our waters for bluefish.

Bluefish are about the only fish left that sportfishermen can catch on a regular basis. They appear in our waters in early May, and remain through November, and range in size from snapper-blues, under one pound,

to what are commonly called alligators, over 15 pounds. Bluefish provide hours of recreation for literally thousands of anglers from Maine to Florida.

The waters off Long Island once were abundant with tuna and it was the most sought after fish, but commercial harvesting by purse seiners reduced the schools to minute numbers, killing what once was a productive fishery. The number of other sport fish, like swordfish, marlin and mako have also been depleted, leaving only the bluefish to fill the void.

A reduction in bluefish will end recreational fishing and industry which literally pumps billions of dollars into the East Coast economy every year. Few bluefish go to waste. As meat and other fishes have become more expensive, bluefish have become a regular part of many people's diets. Properly prepared, it competes well with any other fish.

If you are concerned about the cost of food, and-or are an angler who has enjoyed the thrill of fighting a bluefish, we strongly urge you to contact the Marine Fishery offices and protest their extending to purse seiners the right to fish for bluefish. It will salvage the most important fishery we have left. The address is the Federal Building, Dover, De. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### An Open Letter to John V.N. Klein:

In my three years as a County Legislator, observing your actions as a County Executive, I feel your career has reached its lowest ebb with your Taxpayer Bill of Rights. I am writing you this letter to demand that you publicly apologize to the Citizens of this county who have been fed this JVNK food.

Mr. Klein, tell the truth. Your 25 per cent reduction in the County General Fund property tax will not in any way alter your spending habits. A 5 per cent reduction of the County share of the Property tax will amount to less than \$3 million reduction a year. \$3 million sounds great until the public realizes that you spend \$600 million total each year. In this so-called Bill of Rights, you are only asking the taxpayer to renew your license to spend, spend, spend.

Why, just last week, you increased the salaries of your cronies to \$45,000. Why do you use a chauffeur to drive you around in a county car? This Chauffeur costs us \$35,000 a year. You even have the nerve to use the chauffeur to drive you to speaking engagements on your so-called tax reduction program. Mr. Klein, I think it's sacrilegious for you to use "Bill of Rights" in connection with this gimmick.

I am reminded of President Nixon's promise to end the war in Vietnam before he was to be re-elected. Media events occurred in Paris, Saigon and Washington. It seemed that the war was really over. A few weeks after the election (which Nixon won), the war began again. How will the Suffolk County

taxpayer feel next year when his taxes are just as big, maybe bigger, than this year, and he spent all his energy getting your "Bill of Rights" passed?

Mr. Klein, why do you want to spend \$300,000 on a referendum to further poison the minds of the voter? Why have you sent these \$45,000 a year cronies all the way to Albany to sell the New York Legislature on this diatribe? Reports back from Albany call your "Bill of Rights" ludicrous.

Mr. Klein, you further imply that you will cut back on Police Services should your plan be passed. This is one of the few necessary services in the county, but you will continue to increase your own department with high paid cronies costing us \$1.5 million.

Suffolk County is in trouble because the economy is in dire straights. Inflation is eroding our livelihoods in Suffolk County and life is trying at best. Suffolk County does not need a politician feeding it cotton candy.

Suffolk County government can be reduced a lot more than what you propose. It can be done without wasting time on hoopla. Be direct and forthright, Mr. Klein, and this legislator will show you the many ways to cut government costs and at the same time make county government more efficient. First, you must get off your bandwagon before you can offer genuine hope to the citizens of Suffolk County.

Sincerely,  
John T. Donohue  
Legislator, 2nd District

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## Answer, Please Mr. Klein

We are heartened, at long last, to see County Executive Klein answer the editorials in Suffolk Life. Many of our past editorials have asked the County Executive questions our leaders wanted answered. We hope Mr. Klein will continue to answer these questions, helping to make the citizens of Suffolk County better informed and more qualified to judge how well the County is being run.

One topic of continuing concern has been the fate of the Suffolk County Airbase. Mr. Klein, you have consistently maintained there should be no development or binding agreement made concerning the utilization of the airbase until a master plan is completed. Why have you suddenly changed your position? This question leads us back to many others that have thus far gone unanswered.

The Suffolk County Airbase was turned over to the county at the same time its sister base at Presque Isle, Maine was given to municipal managers. At Presque Isle, the leaders turned the base into a valuable asset. They used the base for a job training facility and rented the existing structures to new industry. They provided for further economic development of the base through bonding cooperation, and most important, eliminated the bureaucratic red tape which made leasing the facilities difficult. This has all helped facilitate turning this operation into a valuable property instead of a liability.

What Presque Isle did was brought to your attention on a number of occasions. Why didn't you provide the leadership to have this happen in Suffolk? Why have you allowed (or have you created) the bureaucratic maze that forces a potential lessee to spend up to six months waiting to find out if the county will grant a lease?

Furthermore, Mr. Klein, why have you insisted that the Federal Aviation Administration not allow any non-aviation operations to rent buildings on the base? When the Citizens Advisory Committee was able to get the F.A.A. to acknowledge that they were

only interested in the facilities east of Rust Avenue, adjacent to the runways and service areas, why, Mr. Klein, did you not cooperate with the Citizens Advisory Committee?

Mr. Klein, after the contract for the master plan was signed and the project was in the developmental stage, why did you agree to the creation and offer funding for a free trade zone outside the perimeter of the airbase? There is more than adequate space within the perimeter which could be used. Our list of unanswered questions goes on. In addition to our confusion over your efforts to create the free trade zone, we can't help wondering about the choice of location.

Mr. Klein, didn't you read the Dixon-Spears master plan report which recommended the creation of a new north-west, south-east runway?

The proposal which is expected to show up in the completed master plan, places the strip right in the middle of your proposed free trade zone area. We are forced to wonder about your judgement, and why you decided to lend your name to the creation of a free trade zone at this time?

Mr. Klein, when the F.A.A. agrees to fund a master plan they require continual community input to insure the project is compatible with the surrounding area. Have you, as County Executive, made sure there has been regular communication between the master planners and the community so the funding for this report is not jeopardized?

Mr. Klein, why have you supported the Skylift proposal for utilizing the airbase as a debarking point for cattle to the Far-East prior to the release of the master plan? Mr. Klein, why did you rush into signing the Skylift lease when substantial questions concerning the operation have been raised by the State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Klein, why have you tried to force the establishment of the Skylift operation against the will of the surrounding community, who rightly feel a cattle

moving operation would irreparably damage the local economy?

Mr. Klein, as chief executive and an interested party in the development of the airbase, you must be familiar with the deteriorating runways. According to reports, the runways cannot withstand heavy use without serious, major complications. Mr. Klein, did you consider that by your signing a lease, the county might be saddled with the cost of rebuilding the runways?

Most, importantly, Mr. Klein, have you, as County Executive, Chief Planner and Executive Officer, ever asked yourself if we need an airbase of this size here in Eastern Suffolk?

There are many other questions, Mr. Klein, that we and the residents of Suffolk County have asked and you have ignored. In your new policy of answering truthfully, we hope you will address these subjects. We will be delighted to print your answers. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "They do what you please"

An Open Letter to Anglers, Sportspersons and Conservationists:

Dear Editor:

This coming June, we are to have the bass spawning beds of the St. Lawrence River once again raided, under the excuse of boosting the local economy!

The Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, under invitation from the Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce, will hold their national tournament during the first week of the bass season. This rape of the spawning beds was done in 1978, despite all protest that fishing in such manner is both unsportsman like and that no expertise whatsoever is required in catching the aggressive male bass that are guarding the beds. Our demands that this tournament be held in later sporting season, such as was done in 1977, were laughed at. The season is open and they do what they please!

The Department of Environmental Conservation is involved, as they are using B.A.S.S. free labor in order to secure bass for tagging. All DEC involvement in river history has been minimal, so they condone the potential destruction of the fishery. It is claimed that 97.6 per cent of the fish are returned alive to the river. The real facts prove otherwise! The bass are dumped at the Alexandria Bay town dock, nowhere near the spawning beds. The "released" bass have been found dead and dying, downriver for three weeks after release! Sickly and starving bass have been caught with the metal jaw tags prohibiting proper feeding! We have spent the last season securing the evidence, the photos, the tags and the statements of witnesses!

Spawning bed fishing started last year from Memorial Day weekend until after the season opened. The 250 contestants could not, by rule, fish the river prior to the tournament, but B.A.S.S. membership in total is 300,000 and they have a tremendous following. As a member myself, our publications are viewed as rather "cultist". B.A.S.S. is owned and operated by tackle manufacturers and we are

constantly subjected to the hoopla that it is our moral duty to catch every bass in every water in the nation and release them, if they are uninjured. What does one do with an injured bass during closed season? The atrocity of our already existing massive poaching has to be enhanced!

It is claimed by the tournament promoters that we are being emotional on the issue, or, we want the fishery for ourselves. It is claimed that the season would not be opened during the third week of June, if it was to damage the fishery! Yes, we are emotional, as someone has to have regard for the fishery, as the economic interests will crush the ecology every time! No, we are not being selfish, as we would welcome a dozen tournaments in sporting times! The season is opened by "calendar" and unfortunately, the seasonal weather and God dictates the spawning times, not DEC decree! In 1978, the tournament fell smack into the spawning! Boosting the economy of the area can happen in later year also, but the real reason is to expand the tourist season! Terrific pressure is on Albany to either open the bass season for all of the spawning or to eliminate the closed season! These people are hell bent on destroying the "source" of their tourist season, in quest of the instant dollar! B.A.S.S. can go to greener pastures anytime, but we, the people, are left with the deathly residue of grandiose stupidity!

Now is the time when all persons are planning their vacation summer. We urge that all the consideration be given to visiting and spending vacation dollars in the river communities rather than Alexandria Bay. Perhaps even skipping 1979 on the river is best, or at least until sanity returns in a postponement of the tournament. Or, do we join the self proclaimed, "best bass fisherman in the world", and our kids can catch spawning bass on a bare hook just as easily as they catch bass?

Sincerely,  
James A. Patterson  
Spencerport, N.Y.

### "Ignorance is bliss"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your recent editorial regarding the Telephone Company and its request for increased rates suggests to me that "ignorance is bliss".

I well remember my father complaining about the fact that our basic monthly bill for telephone service was \$7.50 -- in 1924. So take a look at your basic rate today and clap your hands in glee.

It is doubtful that I will experience it, but I visualize that when the "feds" accomplish the desegregation of the Bell System, General Telephone and others in like category that you ain't seen nuthin yet. The competition being set up on the lucrative routes which have been contributing to the cost of our service will one day result in or approach

extremes such as Mexico City and some Latin American countries where a telephone installation costs \$550 - \$750 if you can get it.

When I moved into this house off a Town Road, I had telephone serve in three days at a nominal installation cost. I also thought Cable TV a good idea until I received a quotation of \$350 for a 300 ft. cable which costs ten cents a foot and an amplifier which costs less than \$75. On top of this, there is a charge of about \$8 a month for material they take off the air and maintain some microwave equipment, cable and amplifiers all in a confined area.

So be it!  
Yours truly,  
W.H. Grossellinger  
Shelter Island

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## Why should we continue paying?

Last year, to the displeasure and sorrow of many Americans, the United States of America took a giant step backwards and gave up ownership and control of the Panama Canal Zone. In signing the treaties, which required the consent of the

Senate but not the House, President Carter committed the taxpayers of the United States to funding canal operations through a transition period and into the future. But the aid requires Congressional approval and when the Canal Treaties were signed,

## "You hit the nail on the head"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I just read your article, "Why are we being panicked", and feel you hit the nail on the head. I am one of the half of America that lived through the corruption of rationing during WWII and feel the same is true today. The only difference is that the oil companies reap the harvest.

During the war, you could get all of the gas you wanted if you were willing to pay the price, at the beginning it was 5 cents over the pump and gradually went to double the pump price. In those days, the people that worked in the rationing office, where the station operators turned in their stamps, stole them and sold them to brokers who in turn sold them to the station operators. I knew no one who could not drive all he wanted if he was willing to pay the price. Today everybody pays regardless how much he curtails his

driving.

Everytime James Schlessinger takes his pipe out of his mouth, he tacitly tells the oil companies go ahead raise the price. If he kept his pipe in his mouth and investigated and verified the American Petroleum Inst., we would still be paying 55 cents for gas and 45 cents for heating oil and consumer goods would not be going up so fast because of gas and oil increases that are being passed on.

He sure is a lightweight and Carter still keeps him. I was happy when Carter fired him from that defense job, but why did he put him on this job. After Carter becomes a one-term President, he can look back at Schlessinger for part of the blame.

Sincerely,  
Frank Rampacek  
Mastic Beach

## Isn't it about time the people of our society started to show some kind of self guidance?

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I would like to make a few comments concerning your article "The great death rip-off."

I am presently a Funeral Service student at Canton Ag & Tech College at Canton, N.Y. I feel that it is time that the media laid-off the Funeral Service profession. Sure there have been unethical Funeral Directors and probably still are. But hasn't every profession had its bad apples? Try and find me one that hasn't.

The code of ethics that are being taught here at Canton so undermine your generalizations and accusations, that Funeral Directors are rip-off artists, that I am sad to think of the type of impression shallow reporting such as yours has left on our community.

Furthermore, would you not say that it is about time we stopped passing the buck? Where has the day gone where people were capable of making their own decisions? Do we need a governmental agency for each problem that arises? Isn't it about time the people of our society started to show some kind of self guidance?

I have served many Funeral Directors of Eastern Long Island in the past 3 years and I know for a fact that if you dared to scratch beneath the surface, you will find that they are not rip-off artists as you have portrayed. Instead, they are compassionate human beings performing a necessary service to their community.

Sincerely,  
Alex E. Horton III  
Canton, N.Y.

Congress was against granting it.

Last year we visited the Canal Zone to find out first-hand what the situation really was. Our investigations led us to the inescapable conclusion that the Canal Zone giveaway was motivated more by the United States banking interests which had billions of dollars in loans tied up in the Panamanian government, than by a Panamanian cry of nationalism.

We found that Panama was still ruled by a handful of extremely wealthy families as it has been for over two centuries, and it was our feeling that the small groups and individuals who attempted to rally around the Canal Zone on a platform of nationalism were more Communist inspired than interested in Panama as a country.

Panama will begin the canal take-over of the zone this coming year. Congress is still debating whether they intend to fulfill Carter's promise and fund through our taxes, the transition period.

Should Congress use our money for this purpose, or should it deny these expenditures which could cause an upheaval in Panama? We have to find out what the attitude of the Panamanian people is and what they have been told by their leaders. If they do not receive funding, will they be able to maintain the operation? Will it cause an overthrow of the current government?

To find the answers to these and other questions, we are again visiting the Canal Zone and will report back to you first-hand. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "Rally around the Bluefish!"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Yes! Rally Around the Bluefish! All Long Islanders who love Long Island should. Too bad petitions were not out to be signed at the Smith Haven Mall Boat Show. All sellers of boats, boating and fishing gear, bait, etc. should leave handy petitions to be signed. All civic associations should endorse a ban on Japanese purse seining of our blues which surely will obliterate them. All members of the New York Power Squadron and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliaries should lend their power to this fight.

This depletion of our blues around Long Island by Japan to me is the same as a foreign invasion, despoiling our precious waters. All Long Island must stand together. I will seek my Miller Place Civic Associations support in this fight and associated civic associations to do likewise. Keep the rally cry, "Save Our Waters," up. Thanks for the effort Dave.

Paul Tribble  
Miller Place Civic Association  
Environmental Chairman

### "It made my blood boil"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I just read an article in your Patchogue edition of Suffolk Life; it made my blood boil. The same people who are complaining about vandalism and town property being destroyed and now arguing about boosting up patrols of the auxiliary police. I don't understand these people, when something can be done about all this vandalism going on, they gripe about how the auxiliary police might overstep their bounds. Baloney!! I have been a member of the Patchogue Village Police for some time and believe me, we don't try to act like regular police, but God knows sometimes we wish we could. We're out on patrol every night of the week in any weather trying to keep our town a little safer for the people of Patchogue.

Why doesn't Councilwoman Karen Lutz and Councilman Raymond Calabrese come on a routine patrol with us. I'm sure we can change their minds about us overstepping our bounds. Some of us are armed and many are not. What protection do we have against law breakers who themselves are carrying weapons. If we need assistance, we have to look for a police phone in the area. If there is none, we're on our own. We have been fighting for a radio in our car for months but it seems the police commissioner has dif-

ferent thoughts about it. I would like to see one of his men in trouble but has no radio to call for help. Then he will see how it feels to be on your own.

Even with all this against us, we still do our jobs and do it well, possibly too well to suit some high ranking officers. What are they scared of? We're not trying to take over police duties of the SCPD. We're doing what we were trained to do. We're sick and tired of meeting opposition in everything we do. We have been getting a lot of recognition from the papers so we can't be that damn bad.

In many ways we put our life on the line each time we're out on patrol. We have no idea what we may face, but face it we will without reservation or fear. Our coordinator is the best we have had and he fights like hell to get what he needs, but he is only one man whose hands are tied by higher ranking officials. So, please let's quit knocking us and give us the support we deserve. We're human too, with feelings, but no matter what, we're a proud bunch of guys. I don't want you to use my name in this because I can get dismissed from the force for telling the media how it is. Remember, some day your life may depend on how fast we act to help you.  
A Proud Member

### "Keep your distance"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I read with interest the story of the flooding of property on Artist Lake. As a fisherman and outdoorsman, I am always amazed at people who build closer and closer to rivers, lakes and oceans, giving no thought to the rising and falling of natural water level cycles.

Those same people would have any one set a foot on their property, in seeking access

to areas for fishing or other outdoor activity, arrested, but when the lakes and rivers flood or ocean storms destroy beach houses, they cry send us your tax money.

I for one say to them, stay away; keep your distance from our tax money.  
A Sportsman Who's Been Turned Away Too Many Times  
Lake Grove

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# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Oakdale  
Patchogue  
Port Jefferson  
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Rocky Point  
Ronkonkoma

Sayville  
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# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Will deregulation work?

Most of us seek aid from our government to protect us against abuses of big business and big labor. Aid is supposed to come in the form of regulations. But that does not appear to bring relief. A classic example is the airlines. The government attempted to regulate the airline industry. This was designed to create the maximum amount of routes, and supposedly impose economies which would result in lower fares. The airlines, themselves, opposed this in the early days, but fought tooth and nail against de-regulation.

De-regulation of the airlines has already led to a reduction in airfares, particularly in overseas flights. As

ridiculous as it may seem, the cost of flying from Kennedy to Miami round trip is about \$250.00. The cost of flying from Kennedy to Panama round trip is \$266. As the airline industry becomes de-regulated, we can expect other such economies.

As the energy situation worsens, two schools of thought are involved. One supports further governmental regulation of energy, including rationing, mandated closings, and arbitrary cut-backs. This will cause additional hardships, particularly on those with mean incomes. These people will not be able to buy their way out of black markets that will exist. Others favor total de-regulation of the oil industry. They

maintain that prices alone will create the desired effect of cutting back on our purchase of energy fuel. Also, they espouse the theory that if the government keeps its hands off fuel and energy, competitive factors will, in the long run, cause a reduction in fuel costs. Their argument is supported by the price reduction in the airline industry, which was the result of government de-regulation.

We all complain about the high cost of fuel. Realistically, the price of gasoline in 1950 was just under 30 cents a gallon. Today it is 75 cents. The minimum wage in 1950 was 60 cents an hour. It is almost \$3.00 today. The price of fuel oil in 1960 was 20 cents a gallon. Today it is about 60 cents. In 1960, the cost of a standard Chevrolet was \$1,900. Today, a comparable car is over \$5,000. Most products and services have doubled and tripled in price. Why shouldn't fuel?

Oil companies maintain there is plenty of fuel to be had here in the United States; that government regulation just doesn't make it profitable enough to take it out of the ground. Maybe it is time we stopped looking at the oil industry in such an unfavorable light. Unquestionably, they have done a lot to make us

suspicious, but have our government leaders inspired confidence by their actions? They tell us they would never lie to us, and then in the next breath maintain they never said that.

The one area in which the federal government could have been viable is breaking up the monopoly in the oil industry. The federal government should have acted firmly years ago, to insure that the major oil companies not be allowed to conduct a well head to service station operation. If there was competition along the marketing routes of oil companies, prices might have a chance of being kept in check through normal competitive factors. As it is now, the oil companies have become too big to be effectively regulated by government. All the regulations do is add to the cost of doing business, and it is the consumer who pays.

It would seem logic is in favor of de-regulating the oil companies. The effort being put forth in regulation should be re-directed to breaking the monopolistic hold the Seven Sisters have on the entire petroleum energy business. A re-thinking along these lines might reveal the answers to our manipulated, regulated, energy problem. And why not?

## "Keep up the good work"

Dear Mr. Rubinstein

I read your article in the January 31st edition of Suffolk Life and you show a good insight on the education of some of the youngsters today which does not come as a surprise to me.

I recall that way back in the late 1940's, I had a youngster, 17 years of age, come before me for sentence and the Probation Officer asked me to go easy with him as he was being graduated from High School that June.

I asked the boy what time it was and he stated "I don't have a watch." I then referred him to the Court clock and he stated "I can't tell time." I asked him if he could read or write and he replied in the "negative."

This was a situation that I considered intolerable, to foist a young person out with such a meager education.

There were three types of diplomas - Attendance, Effort and Academic. I told the Probation Officer that it was not fair to the youngster to be sent out looking for a job with an Attendance diploma from High School.

In answer to the question which usually appears on a job application, the person is asked about his education. He can truthfully say that he is a High School graduate and could not be accused of lying. Was this fair to the youngster? Upon being requested by his employer to do something that required simple educational knowledge, he would be unable to answer and would of necessity be fired.

It was, at that time, that "tiered" diplomas became a part of the education system and it cannot be estimated what harm this system did to these youngsters over the years.

It was not fair to the public, nor to the youngsters, to give them a "tiered" diploma and have them go out in the world unprepared and under false pretenses.

Undoubtedly, as a result of the education given to this youngster and many others over the years, they were subjected to the same of "lack of instruction" from some members of the Board of Education.

A good many of the teachers today do not take the time to help the youngsters as was done by the teachers way back in the early part of the century. Thank God, there are some dedicated teachers still in the system, but it would not hurt any of them to do as was done in the days when they saw that a youngster was slow in absorbing the class work, to keep them after class for additional instructions. There are so many of these

youngsters who, because of the thoughtfulness of the teacher, became quite successful in the business world.

When I went to school, I was not in a position to get help from my parents because they were comparatively recent entries into the United States and were unfamiliar with the language and the educational systems. They were from Italy and had not been here in America long enough to absorb the customs. They did, however, manage to support us and what they lacked in knowledge of the United States customs, they made up in teaching us manners, respect and application of our studies.

I repeat, I like your article and hope that it gets through to those who will not give an extra minute of their time for which they are not compensated.

Education is the most important part in our foundation in life and without it we cannot get too far in the competitive world, although we all know of persons who have succeeded to spite the lack of an academic education, but these are the exception to the rule.

Keep up the good work and let us get dollar for dollar from those who should take the interest of the youngsters that they are teaching to heart.

Cordially,  
Salvador J. Rametta  
Ridge

## "You're a lucky man"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

To Struggling - I also have never written in response to any article or opinion published.

If you were retired in 1968 and still aren't of social security age, you're a lucky man. Anyone who retires in their early fifties without having to get another job is blessed. My husband has no pension plan and if he retired at that age, we'd starve to death. Did you ever think of getting a job to supplement your income until you're of age for social security? It seems to me you've been sitting round for 10 years relaxing and complaining because you're not being paid more for doing nothing.

Disgusted  
St. James

## Readers' Opinion

### "Much is our own fault"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I wonder how far our county and town "officials" would have gone if it was not your courageous expose of their doings. We the citizens of Suffolk County should be very thankful to you and to your paper taking up fight against the enormous tax burden that has been levied on us in this county.

It is not that our school boards have overstepped any decency toward the taxpayers but they come out repeatedly to get more money from us. Whatever hardships our school boards are inventing, they must be stopped right here and now. They are getting more than 67 per cent of our taxes and if this is not enough, close the schools, fire half of teachers or cut their paycheck in half. That is what they are worth anyway. This will surely bring them to their senses.

If Iranians can kick their shah out, we surely should be able to give gate to our school board and also to others who are

against the people and put on their place persons who are community-minded.

Of course, much is our own fault and have elected these people where they are and have permitted them to become our bosses not our servants. They have formed a new elite slave owners class and we have become their slaves and we are now between devil and deep sea.

Look on our Jimmy, he promised to make heaven out of hell, but all he has done for the last two years was clown around with Sadat and Begin, give up Panama Canal and sell out Taiwan for bottle of Coco-Cola. We don't know yet what else he will do before he gets his ticket two years from now. What we really need is another Boston Tea Party or we all go to hell of no return.

Sincerely,  
Rudolph Ratsep  
Middle Island

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## Panama's in trouble

It is now revealed, that the implementation of the treaties, and the transfer of the property, will cost us Americans an additional four billion dollars for the right to give away an American asset. This asset has been conservatively estimated to be worth a minimum of one hundred and eighty billion dollars. The need for this grand giveaway was brought about by a handful of zealous Communist inspired Panamanian nationalists who

threatened military intervention to steal our national asset.

Even the most zealous of the Panamanians never thought that their bluff would work. Those who hold the United States of America in such low regard never dreamed we would be brought to our knees so easily. Before the Panamanians puff their chests with pride, by bringing down the mighty great Americans, they, and we, should understand the

backroom financial politics that surround this intrigue.

Torijos, the dictator of Panama, and a close friend of the Rockefellers, was sold a bill of goods concerning the need for urban development in the country of Panama. This massive development plan was funded by the New York banking community, of which the Rockefellers are major beneficiaries. Torijos entered into numerous capital improvement projects; an overnight transformation from slum housing to apartment living. Airports, roads and municipal buildings were constructed through the use of this country's bank loans. Initially, it appeared Panama could afford this urbanization. As the world's economy took a down turn, it became all too apparent that the United States banking investments in Panama were shaky.

It is estimated that last year's interest on the loans Panama had entered into was consuming 60 per cent of the Panamanian tax revenues; a bankrupting situation by any accounting standards. The only salvation for the U.S. banking community was the nationalization of the Panama Canal. This resulted in the giveaway of a valuable U.S. asset belonging to all the people of the United States.

Today, one year after the ratification of this giveaway, and four months before the actual occupation by Panamanian troops and personnel of the Canal zone, Panama and the Canal zone is in a state of panic and turmoil. One year ago, the dictator Torijos's pictures adorned every available wall. It was displayed in more prominence than the crucifix in this 96 per cent Catholic country. Today, Torijos's picture is gone and in its place are wall writings calling him "little pig" and "little ass." Even Torijos's loyalists are predicting a revolution within two years. They fear this revolution may well lead to a Cuban takeover. It is estimated that between five hundred and one thousand Cuban advisors in key government positions are strategically located between Colon and Panama. Panama, although a dictatorship, enjoys some of the freedoms found in a democracy. Speech, although guarded, is open. Underground fliers and publications are circulated.

The U.S. appears to be playing right into the hands of the Communists, thus weakening its image by giving in to Panamanian demands not covered in the treaties. Panama, fresh from stealing the Canal from the United States citizens, is demanding not only the physical canal facilities but all moveable equipment. Even more

ludicrous is their demand that everything be in new condition. They make no distinction between the locks, or the cars and typewriters.

Further complicating this situation is the attitude of the Zonians. Zonians can best be described as the last vestige of colonialization left in the world. Many seem oblivious to what is going on. Still confident their world will not be disrupted, many Zonians hold dual citizenship. Those born in the Canal Zone of Panamanian ancestors are granted both Panamanian and United States citizenship. Thousands of these Zonians have known no other life other than that of the Canal zone and the country of Panama. They are reluctant to move to the United States. Their families have been born and buried there. Their children have been married to Zonians and Panamanians. Some are even presently confined to hospitals, including psychiatric ones. Part of the dismantling of our influence in the canal will be the closing of these hospitals which has those involved seriously concerned. There are Zonians who are suffering from numerous psychotic disorders. Some of these Zonians can be stabilized through our modern psychiatric drugs and released. But it is feared that once they are released and not commanded to remain on drugs, they will revert to their psychotic state and start a revolution all by themselves.

Congress must approve the funding for the transition of the canal. They must authorize our paying four billion dollars of our tax dollars to give away this national treasure. Congress, which was not consulted, is rightfully rebelling. A poll taken at the time of ratification indicated they would have turned down ratification of the Carter treaties. Since last year, many members of congress have been replaced with others who are unalterably opposed to the treaties, and committed to vote against any funding efforts. Suffolk Life supports these Congressmen.

It's bad enough that the President of the United States and our Senate could weaken the United States image and position, by allowing ourselves to be brought to our knees in giving away the canal. We should not enhance this insult by paying one cent additional of our tax dollars to implement it. The money that Carter wants to spend to implement this giveaway should be used to ascertain the mood of the people and preparing our defenses at least once during Carter's administration we might be able to be in a position to head off a revolution that would transform the American Panama Canal into a Cuban-Russian asset. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "The taxpayers are being short-changed"

Dear Dave:

Judging from the tone of the letters you are receiving from the members of our faculty who believe they are above criticism, the taxpayers are being short-changed. This to me is the first indication that we probably have a number of square pegs in round holes. Our teachers appear to be unhappy; somewhere, someplace these misinformed individuals have been misguided by their Union representatives. Just in case they have forgotten and are laboring under false illusions that NOTHING CAN HAPPEN TO US, we would like to remind them this is the way we taxpayers see it. We have just about had it when teachers are permitted to create austerity programs which affect our children.

Any organization to remain in business is judged by the product it creates and our children will never be a credit to our schools if we permit our teachers to run hog wild with their ridiculous demands, and if these demands are not met, they believe they have the authority to curtail the students' activities. I believe our teachers have been living in a dream world, not having been exposed to the outside world where it is a matter of dog eat dog and if you don't produce, you will be thrown out on your ear. There is no tenures on our jobs.

When an organization is producing an inferior product and naturally running into financial difficulties, you don't resolve the situation by increasing salaries or curtailing services; changes are made.

● Weed out the undesirable, non-productive over-paid individuals from top administrators to the low person on your payroll.

● Reduction in the number of employees.  
● Increased production  
● Reduction in salaries.  
● Reduction in benefits, shorter vacation period. Classes to continue throughout the summer months.

This is what is known as an austerity program, cutting bus service and athletic activities have nothing but a nuisance value and does not result in any worthwhile savings. Teachers should bear in mind that the taxpayers are top management and no one is indispensable.

I would like to offer one more thought to our teachers. Please help restore the dignity to your profession which it so richly deserves,

settle your disputes behind closed doors, not with PICKET SIGNS. Remember there are children present.

Sincerely,  
Frank Geiser  
Calverton

### "We appeal to the residents"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The land use committee of the League of Women Voters, in reviewing recent rezoning applications in Brookhaven Town, has noted several which ask the Town Board to change zoning from a residential to a commercial category to conform with an illegal commercial use. It is the position of the League of Women Voters that a reputable property owner will accept the responsibility to abide by regulations established to protect all of us from inappropriate or unsafe use of land.

We strongly object to the too-frequent case of a land use being legitimized after the fact without town involvement in its planning or execution. We believe that the only way to maintain control of development, including control of drainage plans, parking and access provisions, and appropriateness of use to the natural environment and the surrounding community is for the Town Board to deny every after-the-fact application, regardless of its appropriateness to the site, and require that the illegal structure or use be removed. We urge other residents to become involved in hearings for such rezoning applications and to let the Town Board know that you want the town's zoning ordinance enforced.

Further, we appeal to the residents of the town to be alert to new commercial uses in their neighborhoods and to assist with the enforcement by inquiring of the Planning Department and the Building Department whether these uses have the proper zoning and the required certificates of occupancy.

Sincerely,  
Lou Ann Growcock, President  
LWV of Brookhaven South

Irene Brothers, President  
LWV of North Brookhaven

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# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Which form of government do you want?

Although many supporters of the legislature form of county government hope the movement to ban the legislature is dead, they are wrong. Over 15,000 residents of Suffolk County last year signed a petition asking the County Legislature to place on last November's ballot a question asking whether the voters wanted to retain the legislature or

return this body to a board of supervisors having a weighted vote. Although support for this movement was strong, a majority of the legislators took a calculated risk and voted to deny you the right to choose this form of government. These legislators counted on you having a short memory and hoped by this November, when they were up for re-

## Readers' Opinion

### "Reeking with hypocrisy"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Although I am not a teacher, I do find your attack on their union's credibility versus the recent strikes reeking with hypocrisy.

You mention the Taylor Law which prohibits teachers and other public employees of the "right to strike." I am sure your sentiments would be similar toward Federal Employees who participated in a strike action -- for they, also, are denied the "right to strike" by Executive Order 11491, and more recently, by the Civil Service Reform Act.

What amazes me is the one-sided argument and lack of responsibility your editorial has shown. Why should any public employee be denied a right granted under our Constitution? What should be Collective Bargaining, for some of us, is Collective Begging. Without the right to strike, a union has no threat, or negotiable power. On the other hand, Big Business has the ability to do as they damn well please. You state, quite plainly, the salaries and benefits of teachers. However, you circumvent the reasoning

behind their demands. To point out a few -- LILCO, N.Y. Telephone Co., ITT, ATT, etc. -- who emphasize only a larger profit margin, without concern to those who must survive in the modern environment.

In your most conservative, patriotic way, you are dividing the people into classes. Then, by all means -- throw the teachers in jail. But don't stop there! If they are found guilty -- shoot them as traitors. They have some audacity -- trying to better the lives of their families.

I am a Federal Employee and I am, also, President of Local 201 of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. I do not have the right to strike. But I endorse that right! I am sick and tired of hearing from people like you who tell me how much they have given me. As a union member, I am proud of what the teachers have done for unionism in the public sector.

Yours truly,  
Jack Seddon, President  
PATCO Local 201

### "They will be a source of pride"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The Rocky Point High School Golden Eagle Marching Band has been selected to be the New York State representative in the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in Washington, D.C. in April.

This is, of course, a most high honor and is the culmination of many years of work and dedication on the part of these students. They have always been a source of great pride to us. Now the entire nation can view our Rocky Point "kids" as they proudly march down Constitution Avenue in the parade along with the other high schools representing the other states. Actually, they have five days in Washington with opportunities to perform in RFK Stadium and other prestigious areas. In short, this is an opportunity of a lifetime for our students and for this school district.

Naturally a financial problem coexists along with our honor of having been selected. The financial problem is substantial -- about \$25,000. worth. The expense cannot be raised through the school's budget. Travel expenses and food and lodging will have to be raised through outside sources.

With this thought in mind a meeting was called of parents of band members. The matter was discussed in detail and out of this meeting emerged a committee of parents dedicated to raising the money. Also, a booster club was formed and will be formally known as the Rocky Point H.S. Marching Band Booster Club, Rocky Point High School, Rocky Point, N.Y.

This Club does have the approval of the Board of Education to raise, as an outside source, the money necessary to meet expenses. Whatever we can do as individuals or as organizations will, I am certain, be more than appreciated by the band. They will be a source of increased pride to all of us.

Yours truly,  
Frank J. Carsiti,  
Superintendent of Schools

election, you would have forgotten they voted to deny you this fundamental right.

Almost a year has passed since this vote took place. There is a new presiding officer in the legislature and there are three new members. This new leadership and those new members have not changed the composition. The legislature itself still does not fully comprehend their duties or responsibilities nor the vast powers it has at its disposal to make Suffolk a more economical and a better place to live.

Most residents still don't know who their legislator is. The legislature is constantly passing laws restricting our way of life. They pass measures costing millions of dollars, adding to our tax burden. Typical of the inability of the legislature to act in your behalf was their recent whitewashing of Newsday's revelation concerning the squandering and abuse of your money through O.T.B. Newsday presented a factual, undeniable, detailed account of patronage, over-expenditures and under-productivity by O.T.B. There was no denying these facts. The legislature was forced into looking at Newsday's allegations, and quickly and expediently, if not scandalously, rejected these abuses without so much as an apology for allowing the conditions to exist in the past or hope for improvement in the future.

The legislature must face the reality that voters today have the power of Initiative and Referendum. The legislature can cause the question to be placed on the ballot now for a November vote. The residents of

Suffolk County must be given the opportunity to decide what form of government they want. The legislature can do this themselves, saving everyone a lot of time and effort. By voting to approve this question, they will make democracy again a part of Suffolk County government. If they still refuse to allow the voters to decide this question they will force Suffolk County's first I & R question. They simply cannot hope this issue will go away. It won't. We won't let it, nor will those legislators who feel that you, the taxpayer, the voters in Suffolk County, should have the right to choose the type of government you want to run your life.

A vote by the legislature now will allow ample time for debate on the merits of a legislature vs. the weighted vote board of supervisors type of government. Debate will determine fact from fiction. An informed voter will be able to determine the rationale of both sides and make up his own mind which form of government will be more economical and responsive to his needs.

Within the next thirty days we expect to see Legislator Denis Hurley offer a resolution on this important question. We hope the legislators who voted in favor in the past will continue to do so. We also hope the legislators who opposed this fundamental right to determine the type of government you want, will redeem themselves in your eyes this year when they are up for re-election. They can do so by voting unanimously in favor of the people of Suffolk County and their right to choose. And why not?

## Carney's not so conservative calendar

When Bill Carney ran for Congress he made a big point of being a Conservative. He wanted to go to Washington to act out his and your conservative philosophy. He promised to eliminate as many wasteful liberal practices he could. Carney's voting record so far has been conservative but you must wonder about his personal conservatism.

Dean Speir, a local Westhampton Beach advertising agent brought to our office this past week a calendar he had just received from Carney.

The calendar was a House of Representatives calendar. It had been mailed to Speir unsolicited by Carney using the frank privileges (free postage) given to Congressmen. Speir asked, "What the hell is a Conservative Congressman doing spending my tax money to send me a calendar paid for by my tax dollars I did not ask for?" If this is Conservatism, what is Liberalism? Speir's question is a good one. We believe Congressman Carney should answer. And why not?

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