

Nobody Promised Them A Rose Garden

The jails in Nassau and Suffolk Counties are overcrowded. Long-term prisoners are being transferred to Erie County where there is room. The Long Island Equal Justice Association sent out a letter to newspapers criticizing these moves. It claims that this facility, 560 miles from Suffolk County, is a hardship on the inmates and their families.

We only have one comment -- tough. Nobody promised the lawbreakers of our society a rose garden as a reward for crimes against their fellow man. The long-term inmates of the Suffolk County jails are rarely first offenders. Before they were sentenced, their past was scrutinized carefully and every avenue was explored, leading toward their being placed on probation. The fact that they were not granted probation is an indication of the severeness of these crimes and potential for further criminal ac-

tivity. Their victims didn't choose the time or the place for the violation. These convicted criminals did.

Our liberal bleeding hearts have made our criminal justice system a sweetheart deal for the criminals. Where a convicted criminal spends his time should be of little concern to society. The time they will spend incarcerated is in retribution for their crimes against their victims and society as a whole.

The L.I.E.J.A. talks about the hardships for the criminals and their families. We don't see them speaking out for the victims the criminals have offended. For there to be equal justice in a society, criminals who have violated the rights of others should be made to suffer losses and hurt that at least equals what they have perpetrated.

And why not?

Inspect What We Buy

There is not a community on Long Island that doesn't have slums. Many of these slums exist because we as taxpayers are subsidizing their existence through welfare payments. Houses within these slums often are health hazards, not fit for human habitation. Yet, there are a few who benefit by making millions from these substandard properties. There are select few realtors and investors who own them.

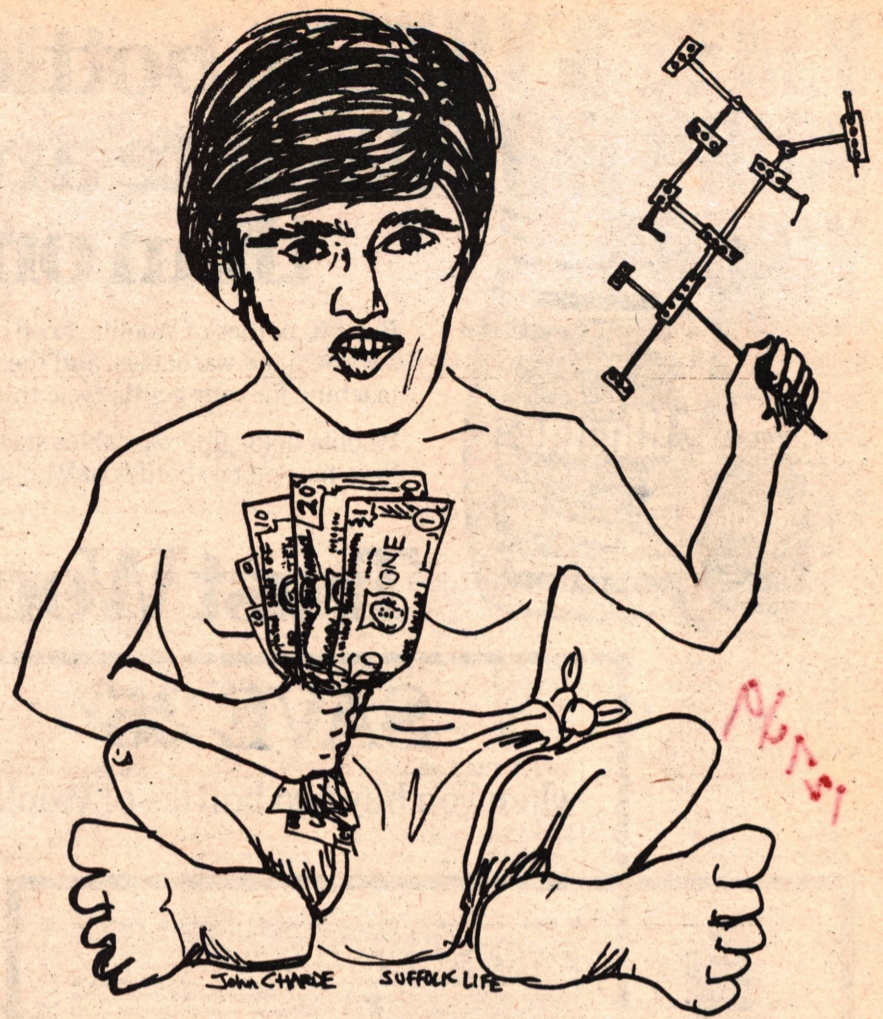
This slum housing, although costly, is uncontrolled, as we have no pre-rental inspection law. People on welfare often are desperate when seeking housing. They have been evicted, sometimes through no fault of their own, from their former housing. They must get a roof over their heads. Welfare agrees to pay up to \$400 per month. Greedy realtors, knowing this and knowing the fact the renters are on welfare, show them homes that under normal circumstances couldn't be rented for a fraction of the welfare rates. They tell the welfare recipients, "This is all

there is. Take it or leave it." The welfare recipient moves in. Sometimes the premises are roach-infested, sometimes they even lack proper facilities.

Many towns have requested the county to pass a pre-rental inspection law. Prior to a premises being rented to social services, it would be subjected to a thorough inspection by either the county health department or the local building inspector. Before a lease could be signed, the premises would have to be certified for human habitation.

A law of this nature would go a long way toward eliminating many of the slums that have been building in frightening proportions throughout Long Island. Residents of a community have a right to expect that their government aid them in maintaining and improving the quality of the community -- rather than refusing to address a problem that encourages its demise. The county should act now.

And why not?



Tinker Toy Tommy

The lead editorial in last Thursday's Wall Street Journal took Thomas Downey, Congressman from the 2nd Congressional District, to task for his immature behavior during a recent House Ways and Means Committee meeting. The editorial began: "Ways and Means Democrat Thomas Downey this week had a temper tantrum because Treasury Secretary Regan wouldn't build him a Tinker Toy model of the administration's economic program. He yelled that the plan was 'hallucinogenic.'"

"Fear of anything that might slow Washington's accretion of wealth and power probably was the real source of the young Congressman's outburst." They went on to say, "But if he has some interest in the economy, we can suggest that he not think of it as a Tinker Toy set."

Suffolk Life contacted Downey Friday. He stated, "The Wall Street Journal is written for millionaires." (The Wall Street Journal has the largest circulation of any newspaper in the United States. It is respected and is read by not only those who are interested in finance, but in world affairs.) "The Wall Street Journal is a capitalist tool of the guiltless rich. It has ... distorted what I said and what I intended." Downey went on to disclaim the term Tinker Toy.

When Downey was in our office last October for an interview, he also

showed his immaturity with outbursts of anger concerning the economy. When pressed on indexing taxes, he resorted to half-truths and ambiguous examples of where indexing had failed; but he deliberately chose to ignore Canada, to our north, which has successfully implemented indexing. In our discussion, it became plainly obvious that Downey was a four-star liberal who is blinded to his constituents' cries, and subscribes to the theory that the federal government's primary obligation was to take the earnings from the workers, capital from industry and feed and enlarge the federal bureaucracy.

Reading the Wall Street Journal's characterization of "Tinker Toy Tommy" and his immature outbursts confirmed our suspicions that he acts no more rationally and maturely on economic policies in Washington than we had expected.

The residents of the 2nd Congressional District should pay more attention to Tinker Tommy Downey's liberal philosophy and give less credence to his expeditious answering of his mail, his gladhanding and his kissing of babies.

Thomas Downey and his politics are at the root of your declining paychecks, real spendable income and inflationary federal government policies.

And why not?

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 31

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

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

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



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

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

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Robert J. Andrews - Director of Sales
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

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

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume. NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason. ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

LILCO and its permanent injunction to ban gatherings at the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station should be thrown out of court and reprimanded for trying to change the Con-

stitution of the U.S.A. and the Bill of Rights. This is the type of radical thinking they are accusing the anti-nuclear activists of.
John Harper
Yaphank

Working For Welfare

Recently we were looking for an applicant for an entry-level job in our company. On our employment application we ask: "Where are you currently employed or what was your last job?" Where it asked for the name of the previous employer, the applicant wrote, "welfare."

During the interview the job duties in our company were described. The first question from the applicant was could he be paid off the books. When informed "no," he said he could not afford to go to work. He would have to take a cut to come to work for us, compared to what he made working for welfare.

In a way, you can't argue. We were offering a little more than minimum wage, \$3.35 per hour, less commutation, less clothing, less social security, less federal and state taxes. We recently received a report from James Emory, Assembly Republican majority leader, which indicated that if the proposed 10 percent hike in basic grant levels for welfare recipients is passed, the typical welfare family would have an equivalent of a salary of \$5.05 per hour, 50 percent more than the minimum wage earner.

Why should anyone sell 40 hours of his time by working if he can receive more for not working? This is the crux of the welfare problem here in New York State. It has helped lead to the economic decline of the state. According to Emory, New York State has lost almost 700,000 productive citizens over the last 10 years. They have moved to a better economic climate. They've moved to states where less will be taken out of their taxes, and the dollars that they bring home buy more for themselves. During the same 10-year period, New York State has increased the number of people who receive welfare by more than 80,000 recipients.

New York State's liberal welfare system, which pays \$2 for every \$1 in benefits paid by the average state throughout the nation, is the reason for our expanded welfare roll. Today, 9.1 percent of New York State's population receives some form of public assistance. Our package of expanded liberal welfare benefits were developed during Republican Nelson Rockefeller's tenure as

governor. As governor, he used the taxpayers' funds in an attempt to buy his nomination for president of the United States. When Hugh Carey became governor, although a Democrat, he earned the respect and admiration of many independents and even Republicans throughout the state for having the courage to say "no" to ludicrous requests for additional increases in welfare benefits. We suspect that Governor Carey has caught the Rockefeller disease: called "I want to be president."

In his State of the State address Carey advocated a 20 percent increase in basic welfare grants. He wanted this program funded both through state taxes and local sales and real estate revenues. Even Carey must have been surprised when Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson allowed the Senate to approve a bill raising the basic welfare grants by 10 percent. The difference between Anderson's and Carey's bill, besides 10 percent, is that Anderson's bill requires the state to fund 100 percent of those increased costs.

Anderson's capitulation on increasing welfare grants could be directly attributed to his desire to ascend to the throne now held by Carey. It is a popular misconception in the State of New York that to win statewide office you must buy the welfare vote. Stanley Fink, the Democratic Assembly majority leader, is following party lines in advocating Carey's bill in the Assembly. The only thing standing in the way of its passage is Assembly Minority Leader James Emory's opposition and the possibility that he may be able to forge a coalition of Republican assemblymen with suburban Democratic assemblymen.

Three of the Democrats who would have to align themselves with Emory are from within the circulation area of this paper. They are George Hochbrueckner, 2nd Assembly District; I. William Bianchi, 3rd Assembly District, and Paul Harenberg, of the 5th Assembly District. These assemblymen have a choice to make. They can align themselves with the productive working taxpayers of the state or they can go with the group that wants to raise even higher the incomes of the highest-paid welfare

recipients in the nation.

You, the working taxpayers who reside in their assembly districts, can make the difference. We strongly urge you, the taxpayers, to contact these assemblymen and explain to them what taxes have done to you, how precarious your existence as a New York State resident is. Compare your individual income to that of a welfare family of four, who can receive the equivalent of earned income in excess of \$18,000 per year when they avail themselves of everything offered to them through the various welfare assistance programs.

Will You Answer Their Call?

What is one of the first things you think about when a medical emergency strikes your family? Call an ambulance! Right?

What is the last thing most people think about when it comes to writing out checks? Making a donation to the volunteer ambulance company which serves their community.

While that may sound like a harsh statement, it unfortunately is all too true. An example: The Westhampton War Memorial Ambulance Co. sends out during its fund drive each year a total of 5,500 appeals. It receives, on the average, a return of about 1,800. That's 33 percent of the appeals made. And 67 percent which went unanswered.

Yet every alarm in the communities served by that ambulance company is answered, any time of day or night. In good weather or bad.

The same is true for all ambulance companies. Endless hours are volunteered by members not only in responding to calls for medical assistance, but also in training to better serve the public. Many ambulance volunteers today are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians, for which more than 100 hours of classroom and emergency room time is required before the title is earned. And many companies have Advanced EMTs, which requires even more hours of training.

The hours of training are lengthy, but they pay off. Unless you have actually experienced a medical emergency, and watched these volunteers in action, it is all too easy to take them for granted. We watched recently as Riverhead ambulance volunteers restored the spark of life to a loved one. Not once, but several times. Had it not been for those

New York State will never get itself back on track by increasing its welfare grants above other states in the nation. No one on welfare should be able to receive in cash and grants more than the equivalent of the minimum wage for 40 hours of legitimate work. Having a system that pays a bonus for not working perpetuates itself from generation to generation. Write your assemblyman today. His address is: The New York State Assembly, Albany, N.Y.; or call him on the weekend at his local district office.

And why not?

volunteers, death would have come to our loved one long before it did, before the full resources of the hospital could be put into use.

Most ambulance companies -- those who rely on voluntary donations to support their operations -- are now in need of your help. The impact of inflation has hit them very hard. Gasoline prices alone are eating away at their budgets. Fuel oil is taking another large chunk, as are the increased prices for all kinds of necessary supplies. The donations they received in their annual fund drives are not going as far as they once did. Prices are fast depleting the funds on hand.

You can -- and should -- help. If you forgot to write that check last year in support of your ambulance volunteers, now is the time to do it. Even if you did contribute, a second donation now -- don't wait until the annual fund drive -- will insure swift, efficient medical aid should a medical emergency knock on your door.

Ambulance volunteers aren't paid for their time and efforts. They offer those hours away from their family, from the important things in their own life, to serve their community. Isn't it asking too much to expect these volunteers to worry about how they are going to raise the money to help their community?

It is time for each member of the community to assume the responsibility of insuring that each ambulance company has the funds needed to do the job. The alternative is the next time you call for ambulance assistance, you may find the service has been discontinued because of the lack of interest.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have read your editorials critical of the tenure process for public school teachers. I don't understand why you take such a unilateral position.

Have you ever spent a day recently in a public school classroom? Anyone who goes into a public classroom to teach these days should have their head examined.

No doubt our present day "child centered culture" is to blame for the lack of discipline now found in our children. Who is to blame? Probably the parents have the major part in this. The greater part of the teacher's time is spent in trying to create an atmosphere where learning can take place. Many parents are anti-teacher and do not help to teach their

children respect for this teacher who is trying to help them. I don't contend that all teachers are perfect. As in everything else there are some "bad apples." Don't you have those in your business? Do you fire them at once or do you try to resolve the problem in some other way?

Would you consider visiting a classroom or two? Would you then write an editorial telling objectively of your experience? The Cordella Avenue School in Central Islip would be a good example to observe.

Sincerely,
Mary Ward
Centereach

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 32

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

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



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

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

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Robert J. Andrews - Director of Sales
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County: \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume. NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason. ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Are Thirteen Weeks Enough?

The Reagan Administration has proposed cutting unemployment insurance benefits to a maximum of thirteen weeks. Under the new proposal, an unemployed beneficiary would have to take whatever job that is available in order to be eligible for benefits.

Currently, unemployment insurance benefits are granted to some people for up to a year. The cost of providing these benefits is astronomical. Contrary to popular belief it is not the employer who pays these benefits. It is those who are still working, and the purchaser of goods and services, who ultimately pay unemployment benefits.

An employer, when hiring an employee, calculates the cost of his unemployment insurance and deducts this from the amount of money he is willing to pay in salary. If the cost of his unemployment insurance goes up, the funds for it are not taken out of his profits. They are taken from his payroll budgets, and the people who are working and continue to produce are denied their rightful raises. Ultimately, if unemployment insurance is increased and these increases cannot be absorbed in the labor budget, the cost must be added to the prices charged and the consumers pay more.

The original purpose of unemployment insurance was to help those who found themselves unemployed through no fault of their own during the time they were looking for another job. Unemployment insurance was intended to be short-term financial aid, not a way of life.

The abuses of the unemployment system are rampant. Everybody knows somebody who's beating the system. On a number of occasions, we have had people apply for jobs here at Suffolk Life after being unemployed for long periods of time. When asked why they had waited so long to apply, they responded their unemployment insurance had run out. Some of these jobs or similar types of employment had been available to these people from almost the start of their original unemployment. Yet, they felt no motivation to go to work, for they were being paid to stay home. They took jobs or worked off the books. They enjoyed two incomes at the same time by not working legitimately.

Thirteen weeks is a reasonable period of time for an individual to find another job. The fact that job offers may not be in their chosen field is not reason enough to turn down honest employment. The Reagan Administration is on the right track in cutting back on programs that have crippled the producers and added to the cost of living in the United States. An unrealistic, long-term unemployment compensation policy does no one any good. Realistically, it is funded by the productive people and the consumers throughout the country. Why should the producers be penalized by subsidizing those who are lazy or just enjoy beating the system?

Let us be fair but be practical. If you can't find work within 13 weeks, you just might not be looking very hard. And why not?

Before They Drink, Make Them Think

Statistically, about 70 percent of the people reading this column will, at one time or another, become drunken drivers. Some will be caught, most won't. Some will have or cause an accident, a few will give up their lives or take somebody else's.

A friend of ours had a few too many to drink one night and was caught. It

was not only a horribly embarrassing incident in his life, as well as a costly one, but an experience that made him think. His drunk driving charge was reduced to driving while impaired, subject to his successful completion of a six-week drunk driving rehabilitation program.

Recently we discussed with him the

tragic number of accidents, particularly involving young people, that we hear of. He strongly recommended that before anyone is granted a license to drive, he or she should be mandated to attend the drunk driving course he went through.

He said, "Only if you have gone through it could you possibly appreciate the impact it has on you. Few of us understand how badly our reflexes are impaired by alcohol."

We fail to think about the potential weapon we are trying to operate. It's plain, brutal killing power when we mix alcohol and gasoline.

A bill is being considered in the New

York State Assembly authored by Assemblyman Vincent Grabar, Democrat from West Seneca, that will require all license applicants to attend an alcoholic educational program in addition to the regular classroom driving course.

If the participation in this alcoholic educational program only leads people to think and be aware of their actions, it is worth being required. It is estimated that more than half the road fatalities are alcohol-related. Anything that could be done to cut down on this wanton waste of human life deserves serious consideration.

And why not?

An Exercise in Futility

Won't the Suffolk County Legislature ever learn? Once again it has gotten everyone into an uproar by attempting to correct a statewide problem with inefficient and potentially disastrous local legislation.

The problem is litter, caused by the irresponsible disposal of beverage containers. The Suffolk Legislature's solution is to impose a Suffolk-only deposit on all carbonated beverage containers sold in the county.

The careless disposal of beverage containers is a statewide problem. The condition in Suffolk is no worse than it is in Nassau. An attempt to correct it only in Suffolk is an exercise in blatant arrogance.

Suffolk legislators have the misconception that they have the power to solve every problem by passing local laws. A local beverage deposit bill will cause Suffolk County more problems than it can possibly solve.

Passage of a deposit bill only in Suffolk will require Suffolk beverage consumers to pay between \$3 and \$3.25 per case more than in Nassau. The bill will require a deposit of \$1.20 a case. Beverage distributors claim, and upon investigation of their math, which appears to be accurate, it will cost an additional \$2 per case to implement the law.

There should be no question in anyone's mind that if consumers can buy beverages for \$3 a case less in Nassau County, that is where they will buy.

The law is a hodgepodge of rules and regulations. Many are overly restrictive and impractical. If enacted, it will be the ruination of small, family-owned delis.

The county legislature obviously has not learned from the errors of its past. In another attempt to protect the environment, the legislature enacted a bill banning the sale of detergents in Suffolk County. Today, it is common practice for Suffolk residents to buy their detergents in Nassau.

A Waldbaum's executive at last Tuesday's legislative hearing reported that its Massapequa store sells 10 times the quantity of soap products as its Patchogue store, which is separated by a mere 20 miles and a county line. You don't have to be very smart to figure out that Nassau residents don't wash their clothes 10 times more often than their Suffolk counterparts.

Even though Suffolk County has not been able to effectively stop the use of detergents, it has lost millions of dollars in sales taxes that would have

been paid by Suffolk residents buying detergents at home.

If Suffolk County passes the proposed deposit bill, we will lose upward of \$4 million in county sales taxes. Last year, more than 25 million cases of carbonated beverages were sold in Suffolk County, for an estimated \$125 million in total sales. In states that have implemented deposit bills, sales have dropped by a third.

Can Suffolk County afford to lose the sales taxes by this forced reduction of the sale of carbonated beverages? In addition, can we afford to lose the taxes that Nassau County will collect from beverages sold there and brought back over the county line? Has the legislature, in its desire to correct the litter problem, considered what programs it is going to have to eliminate when it loses the sales taxes currently being raised through the sale of carbonated beverages? What new tax increases will it serve up to make up for the lost revenues, if it is not planning on cutting back programs?

The public should have the answers to these questions before the county implements a deposit bill. Everyone favors the elimination of litter. A deposit bill on a statewide basis might stand a chance of passage; more importantly, it might work on a statewide basis. A statewide bill, at least as far as Suffolk County is concerned, would eliminate much of the bootlegging and the difference in price.

Deposit legislation should be addressed at the state level. A local law passed by the Suffolk County Legislature, affecting Suffolk only, will cause a hardship on Suffolk residents and raise havoc with governmental finances. The attempt by the county legislature to pass a bottle bill for Suffolk is a typical display of its famous arrogance and lack of foresight. It is another forceful reason why the residents of Suffolk County should consider the elimination of this useless, duplicative arm of government. Suffolk should return to a weighted Board of Supervisors which thinks before it acts.

Next Tuesday, the legislature will continue its hearings on the deposit bill. We strongly recommend legislators to explore the ramifications of their actions, and then show common sense by voting "No."

And why not?

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 33

and Suffolk County Life

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

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



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

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

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Robert J. Andrews - Director of Sales
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County: \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume. NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason. ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Are Thirteen Weeks Enough?

The Reagan Administration has proposed cutting unemployment insurance benefits to a maximum of thirteen weeks. Under the new proposal, an unemployed beneficiary would have to take whatever job that is available in order to be eligible for benefits.

Currently, unemployment insurance benefits are granted to some people for up to a year. The cost of providing these benefits is astronomical. Contrary to popular belief it is not the employer who pays these benefits. It is those who are still working, and the purchaser of goods and services, who ultimately pay unemployment benefits.

An employer, when hiring an employee, calculates the cost of his unemployment insurance and deducts this from the amount of money he is willing to pay in salary. If the cost of his unemployment insurance goes up, the funds for it are not taken out of his profits. They are taken from his payroll budgets, and the people who are working and continue to produce are denied their rightful raises. Ultimately, if unemployment insurance is increased and these increases cannot be absorbed in the labor budget, the cost must be added to the prices charged and the consumers pay more.

The original purpose of unemployment insurance was to help those who found themselves unemployed through no fault of their own during the time they were looking for another job. Unemployment insurance was intended to be short-term financial aid, not a way of life.

The abuses of the unemployment system are rampant. Everybody knows somebody who's beating the system. On a number of occasions, we have had people apply for jobs here at Suffolk Life after being unemployed for long periods of time. When asked why they had waited so long to apply, they responded their unemployment insurance had run out. Some of these jobs or similar types of employment had been available to these people from almost the start of their original unemployment. Yet, they felt no motivation to go to work, for they were being paid to stay home. They took jobs or worked off the books. They enjoyed two incomes at the same time by not working legitimately.

Thirteen weeks is a reasonable period of time for an individual to find another job. The fact that job offers may not be in their chosen field is not reason enough to turn down honest employment. The Reagan Administration is on the right track in cutting back on programs that have crippled the producers and added to the cost of living in the United States. An unrealistic, long-term unemployment compensation policy does no one any good. Realistically, it is funded by the productive people and the consumers throughout the country. Why should the producers be penalized by subsidizing those who are lazy or just enjoy beating the system?

Let us be fair but be practical. If you can't find work within 13 weeks, you just might not be looking very hard. And why not?

Before They Drink, Make Them Think

Statistically, about 70 percent of the people reading this column will, at one time or another, become drunken drivers. Some will be caught, most won't. Some will have or cause an accident, a few will give up their lives or take somebody else's.

A friend of ours had a few too many to drink one night and was caught. It

was not only a horribly embarrassing incident in his life, as well as a costly one, but an experience that made him think. His drunk driving charge was reduced to driving while impaired, subject to his successful completion of a six-week drunk driving rehabilitation program.

Recently we discussed with him the

tragic number of accidents, particularly involving young people, that we hear of. He strongly recommended that before anyone is granted a license to drive, he or she should be mandated to attend the drunk driving course he went through.

He said, "Only if you have gone through it could you possibly appreciate the impact it has on you. Few of us understand how badly our reflexes are impaired by alcohol."

We fail to think about the potential weapon we are trying to operate. It's plain, brutal killing power when we mix alcohol and gasoline.

A bill is being considered in the New

York State Assembly authored by Assemblyman Vincent Grabar, Democrat from West Seneca, that will require all license applicants to attend an alcoholic educational program in addition to the regular classroom driving course.

If the participation in this alcoholic educational program only leads people to think and be aware of their actions, it is worth being required. It is estimated that more than half the road fatalities are alcohol-related. Anything that could be done to cut down on this wanton waste of human life deserves serious consideration.

And why not?

An Exercise in Futility

Won't the Suffolk County Legislature ever learn? Once again it has gotten everyone into an uproar by attempting to correct a statewide problem with inefficient and potentially disastrous local legislation.

The problem is litter, caused by the irresponsible disposal of beverage containers. The Suffolk Legislature's solution is to impose a Suffolk-only deposit on all carbonated beverage containers sold in the county.

The careless disposal of beverage containers is a statewide problem. The condition in Suffolk is no worse than it is in Nassau. An attempt to correct it only in Suffolk is an exercise in blatant arrogance.

Suffolk legislators have the misconception that they have the power to solve every problem by passing local laws. A local beverage deposit bill will cause Suffolk County more problems than it can possibly solve.

Passage of a deposit bill only in Suffolk will require Suffolk beverage consumers to pay between \$3 and \$3.25 per case more than in Nassau. The bill will require a deposit of \$1.20 a case. Beverage distributors claim, and upon investigation of their math, which appears to be accurate, it will cost an additional \$2 per case to implement the law.

There should be no question in anyone's mind that if consumers can buy beverages for \$3 a case less in Nassau County, that is where they will buy.

The law is a hodgepodge of rules and regulations. Many are overly restrictive and impractical. If enacted, it will be the ruination of small, family-owned delis.

The county legislature obviously has not learned from the errors of its past. In another attempt to protect the environment, the legislature enacted a bill banning the sale of detergents in Suffolk County. Today, it is common practice for Suffolk residents to buy their detergents in Nassau.

A Waldbaum's executive at last Tuesday's legislative hearing reported that its Massapequa store sells 10 times the quantity of soap products as its Patchogue store, which is separated by a mere 20 miles and a county line. You don't have to be very smart to figure out that Nassau residents don't wash their clothes 10 times more often than their Suffolk counterparts.

Even though Suffolk County has not been able to effectively stop the use of detergents, it has lost millions of dollars in sales taxes that would have

been paid by Suffolk residents buying detergents at home.

If Suffolk County passes the proposed deposit bill, we will lose upward of \$4 million in county sales taxes. Last year, more than 25 million cases of carbonated beverages were sold in Suffolk County, for an estimated \$125 million in total sales. In states that have implemented deposit bills, sales have dropped by a third.

Can Suffolk County afford to lose the sales taxes by this forced reduction the sale of carbonated beverages? In addition, can we afford to lose the taxes that Nassau County will collect from beverages sold there and brought back over the county line? Has the legislature, in its desire to correct the litter problem, considered what programs it is going to have to eliminate when it loses the sales taxes currently being raised through the sale of carbonated beverages? What new tax increases will it serve up to make up for the lost revenues, if it is not planning on cutting back programs?

The public should have the answers to these questions before the county implements a deposit bill. Everyone favors the elimination of litter. A deposit bill on a statewide basis might stand a chance of passage; more importantly, it might work on a statewide basis. A statewide bill, at least as far as Suffolk County is concerned, would eliminate much of the bootlegging and the difference in price.

Deposit legislation should be addressed at the state level. A local law passed by the Suffolk County Legislature, affecting Suffolk only, will cause a hardship on Suffolk residents and raise havoc with governmental finances. The attempt by the county legislature to pass a bottle bill for Suffolk is a typical display of its famous arrogance and lack of foresight. It is another forceful reason why the residents of Suffolk County should consider the elimination of this useless, duplicative arm of government. Suffolk should return to a weighted Board of Supervisors which thinks before it acts.

Next Tuesday, the legislature will continue its hearings on the deposit bill. We strongly recommend legislators to explore the ramifications of their actions, and then show common sense by voting "No."

And why not?

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 33

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

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



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

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

North Fork
Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher
John McKay - General Manager

Lou Grasso - Managing Editor
Robert J. Andrews - Director of Sales
Claire Swanik - Co-op Coordinator

Bill Johnson - Circulation Director
Barbara Selvin - Copy Editor
Sharman Gordon - News Art Director

Peter Parpan - Production Manager
Linda Conaughty - Adv. Art Director
Lorraine Peczkowski - Office Manager

Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County: \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County: \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume. NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason. ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.