

David J. Willmott, Editor

Taken For A Boat Ride

The Interstate Commerce Commission granted the McAllister Brothers permission to raise ferry rates up to 78 per cent this past week. The ICC is the agency that is supposed to protect the consumer by regulating the monopolies that have to do with interstate commerce. They are monopolies by virtue that any competitor must have permission from the ICC before they are able to operate, and the ICC does not appear to be so inclined as to allow competition for present ferry operators.

Long Island and Lower New England have suffered abominable ferry service for a number of years. There have been persistent and constant complaints about: the quality of service, the conditions of the boats used, the long lines and waiting by hopeful customers, arbitrary setting of schedules and dates when the boats would run, the equipment that is not capable of running year round.

Improvements proposed

Last year George Power and Mascony Transport and Ferry Service, Inc., announced they had purchased a large ferry which was formerly used in the Chesapeake Bay and had secured land, both in New London and Greenport, as terminals. They proposed to run this ferry service on a year round basis. They proposed to allow reservations in advance that would insure a person getting on the ferry when he wanted. They proposed a much improved schedule of service and that the equipment they would use would at least be modern, if not new.

Mascony made application for a franchise to operate this service; McAllister Brothers protested their application. McAllister stated they intended to put new boats in operation this year and be able to offer the public a much better schedule.

In reality

This year McAllister started their spring run late and when they finally did start service on weekends, they announced they were petitioning the ICC for a rate increase due to additional costs of fuel and higher labor costs. Mascony submitted a formal protest to these rate increases calling them a rip-off. They gave testimony to the fact that the fuel to run these ferries only amounted to 6.2 per cent of

the total operating costs. It would be assumed by most labor negotiation standards that labor rates have not exceeded the 5 to 10 per cent level per year that most union management contracts are settling for. If fuel doubled in cost and labor went up 10 per cent, there would only be a need for a 10 to 12 per cent increase on fares to reach the level of profit they had previously been at during 1973. According to Mascony's testimony, the McAllister's made over \$100,000 net profit in this operation in each of the last three years. With this testimony at hand, which we are sure can be checked out for accuracy, we question how the ICC, in good conscience, could allow rates to increase up to 78 per cent. It is particularly discouraging at a time when we are all being asked to do our best to conserve fuel. People now will be more inclined to drive around the Sound, wasting more fuel and time.

It appears the ICC operates somewhat like the Public Service Commission. They appear to be pawns of the business interests they are supposed to regulate. It is the public that suffers from poor service and astronomical prices. The ICC, like the PSC, is only responsible to those that appoint them. The people who appoint them are the people we send to Albany and Washington. As long as we send people to Albany and Washington who believe they know better what is good for us, we will be enslaved by them with the chain of rising inflation.

You change it

Luckily, this November, we can change those who we have elected to govern us. It is obvious by the actions of those they have appointed to serve in our behalf, that they are guilty of terribly poor judgement and have other things besides our welfare on their minds. This November you can throw the bums out. It's up to you. And why not?

The Nixon Tapes


Once upon a time every American boy dreamed of the day he would be president of the United States. After listening to Nixon last week trying to justify and explain his actions, his reactions and the vicious commentary that came forth after this effort, we are sure few boys in 1974 aspire to be president. We were left with a sense of nausea and confusion after listening to Nixon. We wanted to believe him, and

the proposition he appeared to make seemed logical. He had transcribed the conversations the House wanted. He offered the leaders of the House and the Minority leaders an open invitation to listen to any of the tapes about which they had any question. He said if there were any further questions, he would be glad to discuss them with those men and would try to provide any further information they requested.

Look below the surface


On the surface, it seemed fair and equitable. He was still maintaining the dignity of the office of the Presidency and was not surrendering the office to his adversaries. Whether you are pro or con Nixon though, you were left with a strange feeling. Why had he not done this in the beginning? Why, if Nixon was willing to release the transcripts of the tapes, did he not make these tapes available to the full House Committee, and why had he allowed himself to fall into such a disgraceful position, being the master politician he is?

This whole Watergate affair has been a bad scene for America. Having gone over some of the reports on the tapes and read some of the transcripts and then reviewing numerous stories that have made daily headlines over the last nine months, we believe the Nixon adversaries must surely share in the consequence of whatever comes out of Watergate. Nixon, without a doubt was wrong, and those who have blown the Watergate situation out of proportion have been equally wrong. We can't see where the two wrongs are ever going to make America right. We are saddened by the whole situation. And why not?



SUFFOLK LIFE

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N. Y. 288-3900
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N. Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N. Y. 11901
Published as second class matter.
Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of



**150,000
WEEKLY**

Published weekly, except final week of year, in 15 market area editions.

Smithaven	Coram/Medford	Mastic/Moriches
3 Village	Holbrook/Farmingville	Hampton West
Port Jefferson	Ronkonkoma	Riverhead
Seiden/Centereach	Sayville	North Fork
Rocky Point	Patchogue	South Fork

Official Newspaper: Islip Town.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager	Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
Allan Eddy - Production Manager	Sal DeFontes - Sales Manager
Maxine Holmes - Editorial Art Director	Bill Johnson - Circulation Manager
Darlene Albin - Advertising Art Director	M. Victoria Randolph - News Manager

Subscription Rate:
In Suffolk County \$3.00 per year
Outside Suffolk County \$6.00 per year
Newsstand single copy sales 25¢ per issue

General Information

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

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Happy Mother's Day

Motherhood is the absolute sign of femininity and motherhood gives all an example of what this world needs most -- LOVE.

Mothers, throughout the year, do things for their children that are never heralded -- things like teaching their children to be human beings, developing their minds, their bodies and their free spirits. Mothers are that wonderful combination of a stern taskmaster and an understanding shoulder to cry on. They see all but keep most things to themselves.

Mothers are nowhere nearly enough appreciated for the tremendous sacrifices, love and patience they give so readily every day. There are few people alive today that can't think back on wonderful experiences that their mother made possible because she cared.

We hope that everybody tells their Mom how wonderful she is and how much they appreciate everything she has done for them this Mother's Day. And to all you Moms out there, we say we love you for being the world's really beautiful people. Have a happy. And why not?

MTA Protests Competition

Oh, to be in the enviable position of being able to give absolutely rotten service and have the power to protest anybody who wants to oppose you! That's the position the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is taking. Several entrepreneurs have proposed placing into operation bus service from Manhattan to the East End, and in addition, localizing service on the East End. They are not looking for government subsidies nor are they asking for higher rates than we pay our subsidized MTA. All they want to do is provide good, legitimate, fast, economical service to the customers who want to buy it.

The MTA has protested these applications which are awaiting decision by the State Transportation Department. The MTA, which owns the Long Island Railroad, is opposed on the grounds that they have operated the LIRR since 1900 and persons have come to rely on the Railroad and that the Railroad service was being improved by modern cars. No one

depends on the Long Island Railroad. You may use the LIRR out of utter desperation because there are no alternatives from which to choose, but you sure in heck don't depend upon it; and as for an improvement of modern cars -- we have seen the derelicts they have resurrected from other lines, and these are far from modern.

The consumer will choose

The State Transportation Department has the responsibility to allow the consumer to choose what he considers the best means of transportation he can find. If private enterprise can provide better, more reliable and economical service, it will win the battle. If it can't, the State will win. But what should be taken into consideration is the fact that the State-run operation is a subsidized run which is paid for by all taxpayers. Even considering this subsidization, we are confident that the entrepreneurs, private enterprise, will be victorious and will garnish the majority of riders.

We encourage those who depend upon mass transportation to write to the Commissioner of the State Department of Transportation, Raymond T. Schuler, at 1220 Washington Avenue, the State Campus, Albany, New York, and let him know your feelings. The MTA and the LIRR might just shape up if they do have competition, and then we'll all be winners. And why not?

Grumman Flip-Flop

In this week's "Letters to the Editor" column is a letter from N.E. Spiess, Director, Product Engineering Department, Grumman Aerospace Corporation. Mr. Spiess is quite upset about our front page editorial on the 21st of April entitled, "LILCO Getting Competition".

The information for this editorial came from a press release issued by Grumman Aerospace Corporation and a subsequent meeting we attended where Mr. William P. Carl of Grumman spoke both from a prepared text and answered questions from the audience. We checked with other people in attendance at that time to make sure our interpretation of what was said was correct before we published the editorial.

The understanding of what was said was very clear. From both the press


release and the program it is definite that Grumman was, at least at this point, going into the business of manufacturing an alternate energy source utilizing the technology developed by Grumman Aerospace combining the age-old principle of windmills as its basis.

No replacement for LILCO?

In Mr. Spiess' letter, in Point 1 he states neither Grumman or any of its subsidiaries have proposed windmill generators as replacements for the present LILCO electric generating capacity. At the meeting Mr. Carl stated that Grumman had offered to build LILCO a system in the Atlantic through which electricity could be generated but had been rejected by LILCO because LILCO's rates are tied to the amount of money they spend on construction. In the press release issued by Grumman they state, according to John Mockovciak, Jr., leader of the Grumman Aerospace Energy Systems Group, that there are many places on Long Island in New York where the average wind velocity is 12 mph.

"In these areas," says Mockovciak, "a 5-kilowatt system would produce approximately 12,500-kilowatt hours yearly, which is about 15 per cent more than the average Long Island residence requires." It is further pointed out that a generating system could be produced "to sell for between \$3,500 and \$4,000 -- which makes it an exceedingly reasonable, clean energy source where the wind is dependable. And ... since generating capacity increases with the cube of the wind


Cont. on page 4 A



SUFFOLK LIFE

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N.Y. 288-3907
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of



**150,000
WEEKLY**

Published weekly, except final week of year, in 15 market area editions.

Smithaven	Coram/Medford	Mastic/Moriches
3 Village	Holbrook/Farmingville	Hampton West
Port Jefferson	Ronkonkoma	Riverhead
Selden/Centereach	Sayville	North Fork
Rocky Point	Patchogue	South Fork

Official Newspaper: Islip Town.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay -- General Manager	Norman Hirsch -- Director of Sales
Allan Eddy -- Production Manager	Sal DeFontes -- Sales Manager
Maxine Holmes -- Editorial Art Director	Bill Johnson -- Circulation Manager
Darlene Albin -- Advertising Art Director	M. Victoria Randolph -- News Manager

Subscription Rate:

In Suffolk County	\$3.00 per year
Outside Suffolk County	\$6.00 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.

- Editorial -

GRUMANN FLIP-FLOP — from page 3 A

velocity and with the square of the diameter of the blade it's conceivable that bigger, more expensive sailing windmills could produce enough energy to supply all of the power for some small, windy community."

Backing down?

In Point 2, it seems that Grumman is backing down on their premise prior to our editorial of April 21. Either that or they issued false statements in their press release and in a public appearance by a representative of Grumman. It appears Point 3 is more to the point of what Mr. Spiess is trying to get at and Grumman fully supports the Atomic Energy Commission and the electrical utility industry in its emphasis on nuclear energy as a safe, non-polluting means of reducing the use of fuel consumption while at the same time reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources.

A total about-face

In other words, Grumman has done a complete flip-flop and you must question why. How a corporation the size of Grumman can issue a press release indicating that they are in an alternate energy source business and state a system can be produced for a specific amount of dollars, where they indicate wind can produce enough energy for some communities, and then to totally deny it leads even the most naive mind to question why.

It should be brought to the attention of the public that there is an interlocking directorship between Grumman Aerospace and LILCO in the dual directorship of E. Clinton Towl. It is inconceivable at a time when this country is desperately in need of clean, economical energy, energy that is safe and does not harm the environment, that a large corporation such as Grumman which possibly may have developed an alternate method to atomic fission energy, could be suddenly made to do an about-face.

The public information departments of a company this size are normally very security conscious and do not release for public consumption any information that has not been carefully scrutinized as to its accuracy and reliability. In rereading the article we printed, written by Grumman, we find it almost totally the opposite of what Mr. Spiess is saying in his letter.

The question that the public must now ask is, does Grumman have a reliable alternate for generating electricity, and if so, why are they back-tracking, and, if not, why did they issue the release of this information if it was false? And why not?

letter

Newton E. Spiess 'much disturbed'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

We were very much disturbed by the article in your Sayville Edition of *Suffolk Life*, Week of April 21, 1974, entitled "LILCO Getting Competition." This article attributed to Grumman a proposal to the Long Island Lighting Company to "build 500 of these windmills... which according to their projections could supply all of Long Island's energy needs." We would like first to make the following points very clear:

1. Neither the Grumman Corporation nor any of its subsidiaries have proposed windmill generators as a replacement for the Long Island Lighting Company present or planned electric generator capacity.

2. While Grumman believes that windmills may have application in specialized situations and, in fact, is conducting development work on windmills for these purposes, we agree with LILCO that they cannot compete either with nuclear or fossil fuel plants in electric utility generating stations. As we will explain later, our studies show that between 7,200 and 28,800 170-foot diameter windmill generators would be required to generate the power requirements for Long Island even if these generators were combined with a complex and costly energy storage system. We see no way in the foreseeable future that such systems can be made competitive with nuclear or fossil fuel power despite the "free fuel."

3. Grumman fully supports the Atomic Energy Commission and the electric utility industry in its emphasis on nuclear energy as a safe, non-polluting and economical means of reducing the use of fossil fuels while at the same time reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources.

We recognize that those who subscribe to the conspiracy theory of life might attribute our response to your article as merely additional evidence that American industry is determined to beat the American public out of the last possible dollar of profits. Therefore, let me try to explain, very briefly, some of the technical problems that are involved in wind-powered electric generating systems.

As is widely reported in the literature, and proven by a large amount of experimental evidence, windmills have an unfortunate characteristic which makes them a poor match to the requirements of a public utility electric power system. The problem stems from the fact that the power output of a windmill varies as the third power of the wind velocity. In plain language, a wind of 30 MPH generates 27 times as much power as a normal summer breeze of 10 MPH. Similarly, a strong wind of say 50 MPH produces 125 times as much power output as a 10 MPH wind. What this means is that windmills produce most of their power in those brief periods of time when very strong winds blow. Thus the system connected to them must be prepared to handle these enormous power

surges and somehow store the power for use in the periods when winds are light or non-existent. This mis-match between the output of the windmill and the normal daily cycle of electric power consumption in an area like Long Island creates very severe problems particularly during the summer when winds are light and power demand high. The only known method of storing these vast quantities of energy is the as yet unproven technique of using the electrical energy to split water into hydrogen and oxygen then storing the hydrogen in reservoirs for later reaction with oxygen or air to produce electric power. This can be done by means of fuel cells such as this company employed on the Lunar Module, or by less efficient rotating electric generators. In either case, the cost of the required equipment is very high and approximately one-half the power is lost in the process. To achieve the number of 7,200 windmills mentioned earlier would require the storage of some four billion cubic feet of hydrogen during the windy winter months for use in July and August.

Adding to this problem is the fact that there is very little data available on the velocity of winds as a function of altitude, particularly over ocean areas. Therefore, there is a great uncertainty as to the cost, power output and reliability of large-scale wind generating stations. In the past, experimental installations have produced much less power than the inventors anticipated. However, even if we make the most optimistic assumptions with respect to the distribution of winds and our ability to design efficient electrical collection, distribution and storage systems, the number of windmills required to supply Long Island with electrical power numbers in the thousands. You can well imagine the maintenance nightmare that would result from having these units, each 170-feet in diameter, scattered across hundreds of miles of ocean, each subject to the ravages of the sea under occasional hurricane conditions. If placed in a straight line, 7,200 such windmills would stretch for more than 232 miles.

The Grumman Corporation and many other government and industry organizations are working to find solutions to these problems. So far, neither we nor anyone else have been able to devise configurations which can compete with the fission-type nuclear reactor plant being built at Shoreham.

May we urgently suggest that the comments that we have made in this letter, and others that we would be glad to supply in person-to-person discussions, be given space equal to your April 21st article which painted such an unfavorable picture of LILCO's approach to this problem. We can greatly sympathize with LILCO and its employees who are trying to provide us with economical power in an environment of ever rising fuel costs and costly delays which result from overzealous attempts to discredit their nuclear power program. Publication of articles which, in fact, are unsupportable by technical or economic considerations greatly undermines the public's confidence in the American system of free enterprise and make it even more difficult for companies like LILCO to continue with their efforts to provide us in the future, as they have in the past, with the world's highest standard of living. Sincerely, Newton E. Spiess, Director Product Engineering Department

"Mother Of The Year" selected

Cont. from cover

"I like to look at pictures", exclaimed Kathleen, as she told reporters how she came to enter her mother's name as "Mother of the Year" after stumbling across the contest announcement while thumbing through *Suffolk Life*.

Kathleen is in second grade at Jericho Elementary School in Selden. Her six year old brother, Kevin, is in the first grade and also attends Jericho Elementary.

Mrs. Flanagan, originally from Trinidad, has lived in the United States eight years. Her husband was a Marine.

Suffolk Life would like to thank the hundreds of people who entered their mothers in the "Mother of The Year" contest. We deeply regret that everyone's mother could not have been crowned with the title.

In recognition of the mothers whose names were submitted before the contest deadline; *Suffolk Life* is mailing each con-

testant a "Mother of The Year" certificate. Their names appear on the front page of this issue.



Bouquet for mother

Charlie, left, presents his mother Mrs. Gloria Darmstadt a bouquet of flowers for Mother's Day.

Charlie and his mother reside on Lowell Road in Sayville. (Peggy Johnson Photo)

Celebrate Mother's Day week

Rose-scented paper greets Mom

If your copy of *Suffolk Life* smells like roses this week, it's because we've decided to send our bouquet (or at least it's aroma) to Mom.

We actually mixed rose perfume into the ink used to print this issue, to achieve a rose-scented *Suffolk Life* for Mother's Day week.

Elsewhere in this issue, we announce Eastern Long Island's first "Mother of the Year" award.

The whole idea is to thank and give a big hug to all Moms, and to say, "We really appreciate and love you!"



willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

One Tax for All

A few week ago in this column we proposed a theory of one single, solitary tax to replace all taxes. It would be one uniform tax without loopholes and exemptions that would be paid by the rich, by the poor, by small companies and big corporations.

To answer all needs

The tax would only have to amount to less than 13 percent to take care of all the government's needs. The tax would be on the gross national product and on the gross national income. A universal tax without exemptions or loopholes would solve a vast number of problems that exist in this country. It would give everyone an equal opportunity to achieve his share of the wealth.

Opposing viewpoints

The liberals claim this system would be unfair as it places an undue burden on those at the lower end of the economic scale. The conservatives claim this tax would be unfair because it strips businesses and corporations of their favored status which they use so well to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

Fair share

In reality, they both are absolutely right, and this is the justification for the system. Everyone, regardless of their income, would end up paying a equal tax. This tax would eliminate all those loopholes by which the very, very poor and the very, very rich are able to get by without paying their fair share of the tax burden.

In proportion

What happens (in reality) by keeping the system under which we presently operate is: the 85 percent of the people who are in the middle end up paying far more than their share of taxes. Under a universal tax system, those who are poor pay less in dollars and those who rich pay more in dollars, but all, in reality, are paying in the exact proportion as the next man.

Up to 30 percent

As for as the argument the poor cannot afford to pay any tax, you must take a look at the present system under which even those who are in poverty straits are paying up to 30 percent of their meager incomes in

one form of tax or another. These taxes are collected through sales taxes, the portion of the rent applied to real estate taxes, the portion of the profit that goes to pay income taxes of the owners, and various hidden taxes on bread, gas, etc.

Pay a fair share

There will be less liability on those who are poor under an equal system than there is under the present system. Under this system, the wealthy would pay more of the share of taxes than they are presently paying because they would have no loopholes by which to avoid paying these taxes. At the same time there would be maximum incentive to those who are ambitious and have the ability to make more money by not having these qualities taxed to a point that the incentive is taken away.

System of chaos

What presently happens with our various tax laws is the politicians utilize them to pit the rich against the poor, black against white, worker against management, and attempt to achieve social justice when in reality they achieve a system of chaos.

The man in the middle

The next time you take a look at your pay check and find 20 percent or more taken out of it, think about this concept. It is you, the guy in the middle, who is paying the maximum burden and receiving the least amount of benefit. And why not?

Conspiracy Theory

In last week's Letters To The Editor, Newton E. Spiess of Grumman refers to a "conspiracy theory of life". We suppose this was aimed at Suffolk Life because we do not accept the system as it stands and are always questing for new answers to difficult problems. We will not accept pat establishment answers of 'yes' or 'no'. The public at large would be better off if they questioned the establishment a little more and accepted many less pat answers.

Think of it this way

In the preceding editorial on the energy problem which Mr. Spiess found offensive, we asked the public to think of the issue like this: How much

serious thought, research or development will go into a system to provide energy that does not incorporate the use of the marketing operation of energy companies?

What incentive?

In other words, what incentive is there to develop an alternate energy source to gasoline that you could not or would not buy on a regular basis from a service station? What economic sense does it make to develop an electricity source that does not have to go through wires and could be sold through a meter?


What are the results?

If such a source were developed, which was economical, safe and convenient, what then would happen to the marketing apparatus of our oil companies, their service stations, their trailer trucks, their oil storage farms, their pipelines, their refineries and their oil wells?

Could the American economy tolerate such a development? What would happen to the meters, the electrical wires, the utility poles, the generating plants, and the fuel to run them if you could generate electricity on a site of utilization?

Think about it


Could American economy stand such a change? If it could stand such a change, would those who control these industries allow such competition? We do not fully subscribe to the conspiracy theory of life, but it sure in heck is interesting to think about, isn't it? And why not?



SUFFOLK LIFE

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N.Y. 288-3907
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of

**150,000
WEEKLY**

Published weekly, except final week of year, in 15 market area editions.

Smithaven	Coram, Medford	Mastic, Moriches
J Village	Holbrook/Farmingville	Hampton West
Putt Jefferson	Honkagonoma	Riverhead
Selden, Coesterach	Sayville	North Fork
Rocky Point	Patchogue	South Fork

Official Newspaper: Islip Town.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay -- General Manager	Norman Hirsch -- Director of Sales
Maxine Holmes -- Production Director	Sal DeFontes -- Sales Manager
Darlene Albin -- Advertising Art Director	M. Victoria Randolph -- News Manager
Bill Johnson -- Circulation Manager	

Subscription Rate:
In Suffolk County \$3.00 per year
Outside Suffolk County \$6.00 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.

David J. Willmott, Editor

Why Are We Planning For Doomsday?

We have sat and listened to LILCO, to engineers, and to scientists tell us that atomic energy plants are as close to fail-safe as they possibly could be. They are so convincing that we almost want to put aside intuition and believe them.

Just in case

Two weeks ago, we got word that the State Health Department and Civil Defense organizations are going to bombard the public with information concerning what to do in case there is a little mishap -- like how to evacuate and get the hell out of the area before you're dead.

Now this kind of makes you wonder if all this mumbo-jumbo that we have gotten out of LILCO is fact, fiction, or convenient fantasy. Is there a chance for human error? Is there a chance for a mechanical error? And is there a chance for sabotage?

Could it happen?

One of the little items we didn't realize was that if there was a little mishap at the Shoreham plant the effect would be like 1,000 atomic bombs going off at one time, not 1,000 big atomic bombs, but 1,000 of the size dropped over Nagasaki.

If you live close to the plant, you won't have to worry about evacuation because you're going to be just plain dead. If you live 20 or 30 miles away, you might stand a chance of living -- if the traffic jam isn't too big.

But then again, they don't tell you how your life will be lived: what the radiation you will come in contact with will do to you, whether you will be disfigured and full of cancer. Even if you're able to avoid this, what's going to be the outcome of any children you might have after this little mishap?

They also don't tell you what effect one mishap will have on the other atomic plants in the area. They do tell you that LILCO is planning two more of these little gems for Eastern Long Island in Jamesport, and all totaled, there will be fourteen of these atomic energy plants surrounding the Long Island Sound between Connecticut and New York State.

Testimony that has come out recently has shown that at present atomic installations, security was quite lax and these plants were vulnerable to sabotage. Also, our headlines have been filled with news of crackpots who are hell bent on proving a point at any cost.



Spirit of '76

As one who likes the idea of breathing and being alive, we are beginning to seriously question how believable LILCO and atomic energy scientists are, whose livelihood is earned from creating and harnessing atomic energy.

LILCO is the company that pushed like hell to get people to buy air conditioners five years ago. They're now saying they couldn't foresee the demands for energy people are placing on this system. Now, LILCO is asking to raise summertime rates to make people refrain from using air conditioners. You kind of wonder what LILCO is after.

Is it only profit they are interested in? Or, somehow, way down deep in their dark, corporate heart, do they really have feeling for the people they have enslaved? You know, like the Southern plantation owner?

How do you feel about it?

We don't know how you feel about it, but if the State Health Department and the Civil Defense organizations are making plans for what to do in case LILCO has a mishap, we would just as soon see the threat of a mishap eliminated altogether, even if it means doing without our air conditioner in the summer and our electric blanket in the winter.

Life without conveniences, to us, is a little more valuable than no life with conveniences and big fat electric bills.

By the way, if you feel like protesting or conveying your thoughts, the Atomic Energy Commission is answerable and responsible to the President of the United States,

Congress, and the Senators that represent this district. Their addresses are as follows:


President Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Congressman Otis G. Pike
132 Ostrander Avenue
Riverhead, New York, 11901

Senator Jacob Javits
110 E. 45th Street
New York, New York, 10017

Senator James L. Buckley
60 Sutton Place
New York, New York


You don't have to write now. You may have plenty of time to write, if you're lucky enough to be one of those who may be evacuated in case LILCO has a little mishap. And why not?



SUFFOLK LIFE

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N.Y. 288-3907
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of



150,000
WEEKLY

Published weekly, except final week of year, in 15 market area editions.

Smithaven	Coram/Medford	Mastic/Moriches
3 Village	Holbrook/Farmingville	Hampton West
Port Jefferson	Ronkonkoma	Riverhead
Selden/Centereach	Sayville	North Fork
Rocky Point	Patchogue	South Fork

Official Newspaper: Islip Town.

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher

John McKay - General Manager	Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
Maxine Holmes - Production Director	Sal DeFontes - Sales Manager
Darlene Albin - Advertising Art Director	M. Victoria Randolph - News Manager
Bill Johnson - Circulation Manager	

Subscription Rate:
In Suffolk County \$3.00 per year
Outside Suffolk County \$6.00 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.