

# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## You're paying for unemployment

You probably think your employer is paying the premium for unemployment insurance. Not so. You, as both an employee and a consumer are paying this cost.

Most progressive business people budget a fixed amount for labor cost. Part is paid out directly in salaries, other portions of this money is paid out for fringe benefits. The cost of his unemployment insurance is one of the over-head items. It runs from 2½ per cent to 5 per cent of overall payroll cost. These costs determine the final price the businessman charges for his product.

Unemployment insurance is useful as it provides interim income between periods of legitimate employment. It enables the worker, who by circumstance, finds himself out of a job. It is supposed to tide him over and keep him from suffering financial disaster until he is able to find employment.

You probably know of former fellow workers who deliberately avoid employment so they can collect unemployment insurance. You probably know of friends and relatives who are not actively seeking jobs, but are "working off the

books". They are "beating the system". But you are paying for this.

Each of us who is presently employed is paying for these abuses. These people are being paid by the sweat of your brow and at your expense. They probably do not consider themselves thieves, just average people taking advantage of a good thing. But, they are subject to criminal prosecution and they should be prosecuted.

You would do something to stop thievery where you know it exists. You should not have a guilty conscience about reporting someone who is accepting work "off the books" while collecting unemployment. He is a thief. You would have no qualms about reporting to the police someone who is stealing from your home. Even though there is very little you can do legally to force a person to take a job for which he is qualified but you can pressure these people by letting them know that they are stealing from you, and causing you to work harder because of their lack of morals and scruples. Peer pressure is often more effective than legal pressure. Think about it. And why not?

## Living together

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the federal government has the authority, under limited conditions, to foist low-cost housing on municipalities which are accepting HUD funds. Some people have interpreted this decision as the federal government's intention to spread the inner city into the suburbs.

I have never quite understood the fear some individuals have of poor people, both white and black. I was raised in a multi-national community that had its share of Blacks, Poles, WASP's, Italians, and just about any other ethnic and religious backgrounds that could be thrown together.

When I was growing up you didn't look at a persons' color, at their religion or their dialect. You looked at him as smart or dumb, strong or weak, funny or sullen, good or bad, based upon personality and ability to get along with the other kids you associated with.

The neighborhood I grew up in was called the Heights. Three blocks below was a slum called the 'Bottom'. Both neighborhoods produced kids. The diversity of economic backgrounds never stopped us as youngsters from playing ball or joining in any of the other activities young people share.

I saw kids come out of the 'Bottom', enter the mainstream of the community society and get an education in the public schools. Some went off to college, others learned a trade. I saw some who found jobs compatible with their skills and their knowledge remain in the community. Others moved away.

Today some of these people who stayed live in neighborhoods like the Heights harmoniously with their neighbors. They own their own homes and take pride in them. They have the same problems trying to keep their incomes one step ahead of inflation and taxes. They have the same problems raising their kids and bringing

them up right, just as their neighbors do.

I have seen once proud sections of our towns go to rot. This morning I drove down what at one time was a fine residential street. Grand old homes that had housed some of the finest families during the early 1900's and had remained in good repair and a credit to the community have been allowed to deteriorate. From what I have learned, welfare moved families into these homes and then walked away from them. I saw broken windows, trim badly in need of painting, bare patches on once lush lawns, untrimmed bushes and hedges. Garbage and filth littered the landscape from front to back.

This is what America fears. It is not whether a person is black or white, it is their attitude and how they take care of themselves and their property and the concern they have for their neighbors. No one wants a family living in their neighborhood that is going to let their property go to ruin. When that one individual's house falls into disrepair, it pulls down the entire community's value and sense of pride.

What right does the federal government have to move people into a community or into a house they are unable to, or refuse to, take care of? What right do they have to bring down the value of the surrounding houses and ruin the neighborhood?

If the federal government feels it has a right to impose forced low-income housing on a community, does it not also have the responsibility to insure that these people who will be occupying this low-cost housing live up to the community's standards in every instance? Is it not far better to provide the opportunity for people to assimilate naturally, when they are ready, than to force people of different economic and sociological backgrounds together, in a situation that will not benefit either group? And why not?

## Skateboard fad

Like hula hoops, yo-yo's and ten-speed bikes, skate boards are now the big fad that has caught our youth's imagination. Skate boards have been around for quite awhile. Thanks to modern technology, plastic and polyurethanes, today's skate boards are a far cry from the roller skate wheels, two by fours, and orange crates we used as kids.

The skate board fad started on the West coast a couple of years ago and raced East. It is not uncommon to see kids gliding down the streets on their way to school or their local hangout. From what the kids tell us they are loads of fun and require a great deal of skill to get the best ride out of them.

We don't like to throw a wet sponge on the kids' fun but the boards are also dangerous as all heck. The danger does not only come from falling off, but from swerving out in front of moving cars.

This past week, we had two near misses. Once during daylight a kid shot out of a side road in front of us, and luckily we were going slow enough to stop. A second incident happened just after dark. Two boys were on skate boards on the main street of one of our local communities. They were wearing dark clothing and were not visible until we were right on top of them. Whether they didn't hear us coming or accidentally swerved toward the middle of the road, one of them came very close to being hit. It was just lucky that there wasn't a car coming in the other direction and I had fast reflexes. It was too close for comfort.


Kids who are skate board enthusiasts tell me they must use the roads or shopping center parking lots. Sidewalks are impractical because of the cracks, and very seldom have the large amount of open pavement that they seek. I asked if they would use a hill if it could be provided, and stay off the streets where accidents can happen. They were enthusiastic about having an area marked off they could use.

Skate boards are here to stay. Our town boards and recreation departments should seek out sites that can be used for this activity. Possibly a little-traveled road can be blocked off for a specific number of hours. Officials should act fast and not spend months talking the project to death because that is what is going to happen literally unless a realistic way is found to get the kids off the streets. And why not?

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## King John is not believable

## Should run-down property be taxed higher?

Today's system of real estate taxation encourages the deterioration of property into slums. When a building is constructed and appraised, a value is set by the tax assessor. Assessors periodically physically review each parcel of land in the community and are supposed to change the appraised value according to the property's condition.

When a property owner physically improves his property, the appraised value goes up. Tax assessors maintain if normal maintenance is done they do not increase the assessment.

The difference between 'normal maintenance' and 'improvements' is a gray area. Will your tax assessment go up if you paint or reshingle your home? What if you replace your potholed, bluestone driveway with black top? If you put up false shutters to improve the appearance of your home, will it increase the taxes? What about landscaping? If you decide to put in a patio where you can't grow grass because of soil conditions and drainage, will your taxes be raised?

The present assessment system works against all of us who take pride in our homes and our property. It penalizes us for maintaining and upgrading our property, while it rewards those who cause the community to deteriorate.

If property is allowed to deteriorate, the market value of the house drops and so does the tax bill. Not only does the value of this particular piece of property drop, but brings down the value of the entire neighborhood.

Our present real estate tax system needs to be revamped so that run-down property is penalized rather than rewarded. A tax penalty should be levied against property not meeting community standards. If this system is enacted, there would be no incentive for an owner to allow his property to deteriorate. The penalty would encourage him to keep his property in good repair and thus help maintain the value of the community as a whole.

Slum owners are being subsidized under current tax laws. This situation must be reversed. Contact your Town Supervisor and request that your town petition the state government to allow changes in the assessment system. And why not?

You should be as fed up as we are with half truths and deficit facts coming out of the County Executive's office over the last six months.

Back in October, when Klein was running for election, he perfected the shell game and turned a deficit into a \$3,000,000 surplus. He proclaimed what a shrewd money manager he was. He told Suffolk residents his careful handling of money had Suffolk County in a great financial position. Enough people believed this political bull to re-elect him.

In his January message to the County, he proclaimed that we would be operating on a bare bones austerity budget. He cut all luxury and waste from the budget and was going to run a tight ship. His idea of a tight ship must mean one made out of a sieve. It is not the type of budget all of us are used to operating on, where you don't even have two bucks left over for a Saturday night 6 pack of beer.

In February it became obvious with the state's worsening financial status, the county was not far behind. Klein announced he wanted an 8 cent county sales tax implemented to bail out the South West Sewer District.

The South West Sewer District is a political pork barrel alleged to be rank with corruption. It was sold to the voters as a \$250,000,000 project which presently has a cost over-run of one billion dollars. Klein is one of the primary directors and overseers of this project. The South West Sewer District benefits only one small segment of our county, yet Klein was demanding the entire county pay for this project.

The county legislature, led by Dr. Martin

in sales tax to bail out his financial bumbling. The South West Sewer District was in trouble but neither deserved nor needed all the revenues which would be raised by this increase in sales tax. Klein insisted the county's financial difficulties were being caused by the South West Sewer District.

Now Klein announces he is going to cut-back his austerity budget by 20 per cent. He maintains this 20 per cent cut-back is needed to finance welfare in Suffolk County. Agreed, this may be partially true, but the real blame should be shouldered by Klein, Suffolk's Chief Executive, for allowing Suffolk government to become fat, unproductive, wasteful and corrupt.

Part of Klein's ploy is to put pressure on the state government to finance the welfare burden. Klein wants to transfer the pocket from where your money is taken. Do you care if John Klein takes money to finance welfare out of your Suffolk pocket or if Hugh Carey takes it out of your New York State pocket? We are going to be paying the bills no matter who does the taxing.

If there is 20 per cent fat (and we do believe there is in Suffolk government), then Klein should have the guts to cut it out. Klein was darn fast to take credit for an elusive \$3,000,000 surplus. He should have the courage to admit his mismanagement and incompetence has caused a potential 20 per cent deficit. We are sick and tired of phony politicians blowing their own horns when there is some kind of surplus, then pointing the finger at somebody else when there is a deficit.

Hey, John! isn't it about time we had some honesty in the land of Suffering. And why not?

## Get the shirkers off the dole

Emery Bill No. 10331 would provide some relief for those who are working and supporting those who have left their job without good cause or were discharged for misconduct in employment. These people are ripping us off by receiving unemployment compensation because they are just too ornery and too lazy to work.

The bill was filed by James Emery to correct this condition. It deserves the support of every legitimately employed person in New York State. At present the bill is bottled up in the Labor Committee. It should be brought to the floor of the Assembly for debate.

If Emery Bill No. 10331 is passed, it will help in a small way to re-establish some sanity in the great unemployment give-away here in our state. It's plain damn foolishness to pay lazy loafers to sit home on their duffs, refusing to work. This bill will stop benefits from going to those people who work just long enough to be eligible for unemployment insurance and then quit or cause themselves to be fired.

The money they collect from unemployment insurance comes out of money you should receive but can't because your employers have to pay these funds into additional premiums for unemployment insurance. Send a letter today to your Assemblyman and State Senator. Their

addresses are as follows:

### ASSEMBLY

**I. William Bianchi**  
25 Orchard Rd.  
E. Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

**George Hochbrueckner**  
State Office Building  
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787

**Perry B. Duryea**  
Tuthill Rd.  
Montauk, N.Y. 11954


### SENATOR

**Leon E. Giuffreda**  
State Office Building  
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787

The 13 cents you invest in this letter and stamp will likely save you a few bucks in next year's taxes. You might even be able to get a small raise if your employer can pay you this money directly instead of the State Unemployment Fund. And why not?

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# Farmland referendum

Last Tuesday the County Legislature postponed their scheduled vote on the Farmland Acquisition bill, which would have the County purchase the development rights to farmland. Suffolk Life applauds this move. We felt the public has not been given all the facts pertinent to this massive undertaking. As we said in a recent editorial, we doubt if the Legislature, as a body, fully comprehends all the complications. If they had passed this proposal, they would have been voting blindly either by emotion or for political reasons.

Suffolk Life is a proponent of farmland preservation if the cost can be afforded and the overall economic impact to the localities is not devastating. To make this decision, we must all be given the opportunity to examine all implications-financial as well as ecological and social.

Supporters of this proposal are now considering placing this issue directly before the public in a permissive referendum this November. It will then be up to the people to decide the fate of this project. Any undertaking which will play such a grave and important part in determining our future should be ultimately decided by the people rather than by the Legislature.

## People, places and things

We are sorry to note **Buzz Schwenk**, County Republican Leader has announced his resignation effective after November's election. For nine years he has been in the pressure seat catching flack from all directions. He has served well as County Republican Leader and if he will be known for anything it will be his attempt to reassociate integrity with Republicanism in Suffolk.....

**Bishop McCann** - will take over the reins as spiritual leader of the Catholic community of the Rockville Centre diocese this coming Fall. McCann has served as first assistant to Bishop Kallenberg.

We watched McCann recently at a Confirmation service and were impressed with his ability to shed the hierarchy associated with his office and to relate to the people. We wish him well and hope that he is successful in bringing the Church closer to its people and the people closer to the Church.....

We can understand **District Attorney Henry O'Brien's** reluctance to appear before the special grand jury that has requested his testimony this coming week. O'Brien has been through a tremendous personal ordeal whereby he has earned the right to be suspicious of others.

O'Brien has said he does not wish to be a willing participant in a witch hunt. If the special prosecutor will identify the areas in which O'Brien would be expected to testify, and limit the investigation to these areas, he will consider participating. If these areas involve the District Attorney's office itself and its functions under him as their Chief Administrator, O'Brien has an obligation to appear and we think he should.....

**Lulu Lulu Loses Again:** The payment of lulu's is an antiquated system of rewarding those who have toed the party line in Albany, a bonus at the end of the session. They were outlawed a couple of years ago but at the end of last year's session were reinstated by Stanley Stienhut, Democratic Assembly leader. Lulu's cut across party lines and are awarded by the leaders in both parties.

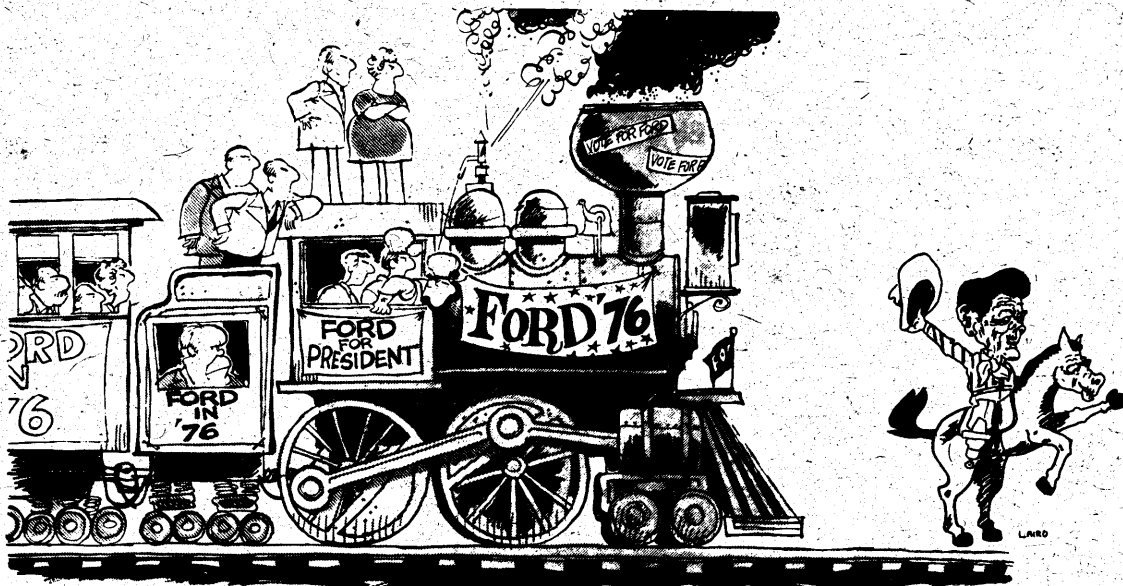
A taxpayers' suit was brought, and it found the payment of lulu's to be illegal. Those who

Between now and November we can watch to see that all facts are brought to light. If our tax dollars are to be used, they should be used fairly and both the advantages and the disadvantages of this undertaking should be made clear. When the South West Sewer District was put to referendum, the county immorally and unethically used our tax dollars for a massive advertising and publicity campaign to frighten people into supporting this dubious proposal. If one dollar of county money is to be spent for promoting farm land acquisition, then a comparable dollar must be spent to allow those who are opposed to present their case.

When the people go into the voting booth this

November, they should go armed with facts both pro and con. The Legislature should recognize their responsibility in this matter and endeavor to make sure both sides are heard before a vote.

And why not?



received them would have to pay them back. This decision was appealed, and the state appellate court agreed with the lower court that the payment of these bonuses was unconstitutional, but they disagreed with the lower court's decision that the money had to be paid back.

What kind of justice is this? If you receive funds illegally, you would be expected not only to pay it back, but probably be required to serve time on top of it. Who said there is not a two-tiered system of justice in America - one for the politicians and another for the payers.....

**Senator Leon Giuffreda's** announcement of his retirement came as no surprise. Giuffreda has recently accepted the task of rebuilding the Republican Party in Brookhaven Town as its new leader. A State Senate seat and the Republican leader's job for a town the size of Brookhaven are both full-time jobs.

Giuffreda was seriously ill two years ago. We suspect he is looking forward to taking things a little easier. He will be closer to home and won't have to do as much traveling, but we would guess the job of rebuilding the party will take every ounce of strength he has.

We offer him our thanks for the job he did representing his district as State Senator and wish him well in the uphill battle he has yet to face to rebuild the Republican Party in Brookhaven.

**.. A Fringe Benefit .....** A friend of ours recently asked what could possibly be the benefit of working in Westhampton. How do you tell him about looking out of your office window and across Montauk Highway onto a neighbor's lawn and watching three horses romp. We wonder how many years more this atmosphere will exist and whether this intangible fringe benefit will give in to creeping urbanization.....

**Day of Reckoning** - Congress has been controlled by the Democrats since the late 30's. Since then they have had an opportunity to revamp Electoral College system. In 1960, Jack Kennedy almost missed being elected to the Presidency by the Electoral College even though he had won the popular vote. As close as we

came in this election to witnessing the selection of a President by the Electoral College rather than by the people, Congress' apathy was not sufficiently shaken to initiate the constitutional changes needed.


As this year's Presidential race shapes up, it now appears Carter will be facing Reagan in a real toss up. There is good possibility the public may narrowly elect one candidate, but have their choice reversed by the Electoral College delegates. When you vote in a presidential election, you actually vote for a delegate to the electoral college pledged to a candidate rather than for the candidate himself.

We can think of nothing more damaging to the democratic system at a time when this country needs to be unified. It is too late to do anything about it for this coming November's election, but our Congressmen should act on it now for the future. And why not?

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## King John squanders \$20,000,000

For the last six years Suffolk Life has asked why the Suffolk County Airport has been allowed to lie fallow. It turned our stomach every time we rode past this facility and saw good, usable buildings falling into disrepair; we were watching hopes, aspirations and dreams going to waste. We felt there must be business people who could use these buildings for productive purposes. These businesses would create jobs, helping the unemployment situation and the economic condition in Eastern Long Island.

We found part of the answer in a conversation with Bob Rosasco, Commissioner of Aviation. According to Rosasco, John Klein, the County Executive is the culprit who has hindered any development of the former Airforce Base.

Rosasco confided to us that there have been well over 200 legitimate inquiries and negotiations for utilization of the property. They have ranged from simple warehouse requests to a consortium of major airlines that were ready, willing and able to bring in to the base a maintenance and service operation that would have employed over 2,000 people the first year and generated a \$20,000,000 payroll. Klein ordered negotiations stopped. No reasonable explanation was ever given.

Recently, Lockheed Air Service desired to use this facility to maintain and repair the Presidential fleet. This would have meant in the second year of operation over \$130,000 in leases alone to Suffolk County. This also was turned down by King John's office.

At present close to \$35,000 worth of leases are sitting on John Klein's desk awaiting the royal signature. Some have been there for as little as a month, most have been sitting there for at least six months.

King John has fallen back on his traditional excuse that the buildings cannot be rented unless they are involved in aviation-type businesses. This is not totally true. Klein only needs to submit the intended use to the Federal Aviation Agency for approval or disapproval if the company did not fall into the category of general aviation. The majority of leases mouldering on Klein's desk are for aviation related businesses. His inept handling of the airport has cost the taxpayers approximately \$500,000 a year in expenditures over and above the income generated by the present users of the airport.

Further, Klein has stymied the growth of Eastern Long Island's economic base. He robbed the county of thousands of dollars in sales taxes that could have been used to hold down real estate taxes.

How many hundreds of men and women today are standing on unemployment lines legitimately looking for work because John Klein in his great wisdom and foresight has held up the leasing of buildings and facilities at the Suffolk

County Airbase to private enterprise.

John Klein is a menace to the Suffolk County taxpayer and should be removed from office. He has set himself up as an absolute dictator, and because of the weakness of the legislature in the past he has gotten away with it. There are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents who find themselves unemployed and yet still have to pay unmerciful Suffolk County sales and real estate taxes to keep financing Klein's incompetence.

Instead of standing on unemployment lines, people should be picketing the County Center demanding that King John get off his duff and use the airport for the purpose it was intended. The lease calls for the airport to be developed for the public's benefit. Denying the public jobs and denying the County needed revenues is not in the public's interest.

The leases presently on Klein's desk must either be signed or denied immediately. This vital facility must be developed in the com-

## Hey Good Buddy!

We would like to ask our good buddies who use the C.B. radio to honor the tradition of keeping off Channel 13 except for boating and fishing talk.

Through the years, channel 13 has been the acknowledged channel over which fishermen communicate. Most fishermen monitor this channel for fishing information. They also keep tuned in in case of an accident or trouble so they can aid their fellow mariners. If you listen to this channel over a twelve hour period on a Saturday or Sunday, you will find this happens quite frequently. Every once in a while, a message is of a critical nature and seconds count. Having this channel tied up with everyday communication could cause somebody to lose his life.

So, good buddies, how about refraining from using 13 for other than marine related activities? And why not?



munities' interest. The Suffolk County Airport can harmoniously co-exist with the rest of Eastern Long Island if Klein and other bumbling politicians keep their bureaucratic, red-tape-bound fingers off it.

The Commissioner of Aviation's hands must be untied so that he may seek proper industry to locate at the airport. Once he has developed industries' interest, he should be able to negotiate and close leases in a businesslike manner. There should never be more than a 60 day lapse between the time an interested party signs a contract and the County either accepts or rejects this application.

The Suffolk County Legislature has ample proof of Klein's inability to manage and administer this valuable facility and should enact legislation to remove the airport from under the executive's thumb and put it under their own jurisdiction. And why not?

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