

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Putting a limit on taxes

Would you support a proposal limiting the taxes government could levy against you?

You are probably saying who wouldn't, but it's a dream that could never be a reality. Wrong!

In the State of California, citizens are forcing a vote on the issue through a measure called public initiative.

If the politicians refuse to hear the public, the public themselves can have a law drafted and put to referendum by compiling a petition signed by 10 per cent of the voters in the last gubernatorial election.

When these petitions are accepted, the issue must be put on the ballot to be voted on by the public.

Using this mechanism, two taxpayer organizations from California have a proposition on the ballot that will be voted on this June.

It requires all real estate taxes be rolled back to no more than 1 per cent

of the 1975-76 assessed value and will prevent assessments from rising to current market value, until the property changes hands.

It will also require a 2/3 vote by the state legislature for any further state tax increases. In addition, it will literally ban any new local taxes, by requiring approval of two-thirds of the registered voters in a municipality to raise local taxes. It is predicted the passage of this measure will shrink current California taxes by almost one-third.

The same could be accomplished here in New York if we had a public initiative law passed by a state legislature. Under our present system, the citizens of New York State are not able to enter legislation they seek unless it is accepted by an elected Assemblyman or State Senator.

Even if a bill is introduced, it may never come to a vote. It must first pass through appropriate legislative committees where most die. For a bill that makes it to the floor to become law, it must be approved by the Assembly and the Senate and then be signed by the Governor.

Needless to say, our State Senators and Assemblymen are not going to willingly introduce any legislation that reduces their power while strengthening the public's. Only through a sustained campaign throughout the state will a public initiative bill ever become a reality in New York State.

We encourage you to support a public initiative measure by seeking out the position of the respective candidates for the legislature and the governorship this November.

Demand of state candidates, their support of this concept as the price for your vote. And why not?

1981 is three years off

Around December 1981, we can see the headlines now. The City of New York pleads with the federal government for an extension of time to comply with the EPA's ban on dumping of sludge into the ocean.

Sludge, sometimes almost raw sewage, is barged from New York City to the dumping grounds located 12 to 20 miles out in the Atlantic.

It was this sludge in 1975 that caused the devastation and the killing of every living organism from Cape May, New Jersey to Fire Island.

Divers, who have seen the floor of the ocean alive with sea life, two weeks later found not one living thing.

The cause of this massive kill was attributed to the years of dumping by New York City, Nassau County and numerous New Jersey municipalities.

After this massive kill, the EPA set December 31, 1981 as the deadline for the halt of dumping into the ocean.

Some Jersey municipal governments and Nassau County are experimenting with sludge disposal plants. New York City, the biggest

offender, has done nothing to date.

It is believed by eliminating water and fusion of chemicals in an aeration process, sludge, we are now dumping, could be converted into a high grade fertilizer.

With New York City's fiscal mess, almost no thought has been given to compliance with the EPA edict. Unless the federal government comes down hard on the city now, it will be forced into granting an extension in 1981.

This extension will be an infringement on your rights. You will be forced to continue swimming in the city's by-product and eat seafood that has ingested these wastes. The city should be forced to act now. Their inaction will affect us later. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'LILCO wastes every day'

Dear Mr. Willmott

I would like you to print this letter in your newspaper concerning the waste of energy and materials needed to be conserved in our day and age. As a construction worker on the jobsite of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, it renders me speechless to see such a waste of materials used in building and manpower energy. In a day of energy minded people when we need such conserving of these things, LILCO wastes these very things everyday of their building of this



powerhouse. Instead of taking scrap metal and bringing it to a recycling center, they have it dumped. Also wood used in different aspects of the job, whether it still be useful or not to them is dumped and eventually burned, where most of the people (workers) could use a lot of it in their homes, projects, etc. and by their not buying these things would help not only them but also there would be that much less buying of it from lumber yards and home fix it centers which in turn would help lower prices in this inflation growing age. Paper used in mimeographs and ordering materials and so on is just wasted by throwing it in the garbage, later to be burned. It could very easily be put aside for pickup by them to be recycled into paper shopping bags, home cellulose insulation, etc. and by also using the money they would get from recycling centers for these things it could possibly help them in their costs for building or expenses. Now as a construction worker at this power plant I know I am one that does command a high wage as belonging to a union, but the money they could get from recycling could help pay these men and myself and might stop at least one rate increase LILCO so often asks for. Now, I hold in my hand an energy saving idea from LILCO that was enclosed in my bill from them. A water restrictor to help save energy; when I look at this and then look at what LILCO wastes everyday since this job began, and what they will waste until the job is finished, just makes me sick. Maybe by using lumber we have now we could cut one less beautiful tree down; by recycling metals we could possibly do less strip mining and do less defacing of the earth, and in so doing leaving something for future generations. Thank you for your time & trouble.

Signed
Loss for Words

'This disease they call senior-itis'

Dear Sir,

I felt compelled to write a response to Kevin McCoy's article on "senior-itis". Mr. John Favorite and Mr. Nathaniel Shaffran are obviously heavily involved in educational programs on Long Island. Considering their views I feel very sorry for the districts that they are involved in. This "disease" they term "senior-itis", I guess, could easily be removed by just eliminating seniors. We could probably also eliminate a disease cancer by just getting rid of all cancer patients! Good educators attack problems they don't sweep them under the rug. Did either person ever consider raising standards in their school districts by adding additional required credits? Then senior year would be more meaningful. It seems to me if Mr. Favorite and Mr. Shaffran eliminated senior year, the following year juniors would probably suffer from "junior-itis."

The fact of the matter is youngsters need to mature socially as well as educationally before accepting the responsibilities of jobs, college, marriage, etc. Senior year along with academics provides many social outlets for the youngsters. It is all part of the maturation progress which is so important to our children. One only has to ask local businessmen about the quality of workers they are getting as a result of high school dropouts or present high school students. Most students are just not ready for the real world. They are not mature enough to accept the many responsibilities that go along with a nine to five job. Mr. Shaffran suggests the best lesson for a dropout is failure in the business world. Are you proud Mr. Shaffran to permit someone to drop out of your school without giving him encouragement and help for a full four years while he matures? We should be more concerned with helping students stay in school to learn how to avoid failure.

Of course, it is obvious where your motivation comes from in wanting to eliminate senior year. Mr. Favorite and Mr. Shaffran would love to save their districts money. That's what is important, not really our students, but the money. We have by far the best educational system in the world, but if we let educators and people like Mr. Favorite and Mr. Shaffran pick it apart, just for the sake of saving money, we will destroy everything.

Senior year can be an important and worthwhile year if we would consider it as such by raising standards, insisting on student involvement and production and by involving everyone; teachers, administrators and the community. Remember, part of education outside of academics is teaching students how to live before trying to live and function in a society.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Cestaro
Holbrook

SUFFOLK LIFE
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|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| North Fork | Mastic/Moriches | Coram/Middle Island |
| South Fork | Patchogue | Selden/Carterech |
| Riverhead | Medford/Holbrook | 3 Village/Port Jefferson |
| Hampton West | Sayville | Rocky Point |
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Klein tries a shrewdy

Two years ago, John Klein had the East End dredge the "Nissequogue" commissioned.

The dredge was used to keep channels, inlets, and canals opened on the East End. Klein alleged the dredge was costing more for the county to operate than would be charged by private companies.

Who could argue with cutting costs and saving taxes? But typical of King John's tactics, his statements were an illusion. At the time he decommissioned the dredge, he failed to provide any funding by the county to hire independent contractors to do needed work.

Now, a number of formerly navigable waterways have filled in. Openings to creeks have shoaled over, not only ending access for boaters but causing an ecological imbalance because these creeks are not being flushed by tidal action. They are in danger of becoming polluted.

Typical of the arrogance Klein displays, he has said the waterways, formerly maintained by the county, are now the problem of the East End towns. It's up to them to find a solution.

East End supervisors have answered in unison, "Hey, King John, we may be yokels, but we ain't dumb. Give us back the money you took from us in sales and real estate taxes that formerly went to operate the dredge and we will operate it."

Good King John, in another one of his slimy tricks, said, "how about a compromise?"

"Out of the generosity of my heart, I will give you the dredge for \$1 and you form a use district and fund it yourself."

The county boys' reaction has been to fight and they are damned roaring mad.

Republican, Democrat and Conservative supervisors alike know they have gotten the short end of the stick.

Voucher system is in your best interest

Tuition relief is a hot issue on both the state and federal scene. The New York State Legislature just passed two plans that, if enacted, will grant parents tax credits towards the educational costs of their children.

On the federal scene, Senator Daniel Moynihan from New York has a bill pending which would create a voucher system. Under this system, a parent is issued script that can be applied towards the educational costs of his child. This script is then redeemed by the school the parents have chosen.

Both the state and federal plans are designed to aid middle-class families in educating their children.

Currently, most children from Long Island's middle-class families are not eligible for many of the scholarship plans because the average income on Long Island far exceeds that of the nation. Both plans will substantially improve the quality of education currently being offered.

The end result of a voucher system

will be the development of private schools in competition with public schools.

Competition always brings the best out in people. Under the monopolistic public educational system, there is no criteria for productivity nor is there any meaningful control on expenditures. It is a take it or leave it situation, that is, at best, mediocre. Providing the financial base for the development of private schools will force education into producing a quality product at a realistic cost or falter and fail.

Opponents of the voucher system

argue that if this system is allowed to be enacted, it will ruin the public school system as we know it today. Of course, those, who are presenting this argument, are the ones who have their head in the public school trough.

They have had years to clean up their act from within, but because of the monopoly that exists, there were no real attempts to change this system for the better.

We encourage everyone interested in education to learn as much as they can about the voucher system and support them from an informed position. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Clarification of Worrel case

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In response to your article "Don't Injure Back on Job", I as Mr. Worrel's employer, can assure you that he did receive emergency treatment at Central Suffolk Hospital at the time of his injury. He was diagnosed as having a muscle sprain, given a muscle relaxant, and told to do mild exercise. A few days later Robert Worrel was given emergency treatment at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital. The diagnosis was the same. I have received bills from both these hospitals and I have forwarded them to my insurance company.

Mr. Worrel finally did seek a doctor in Queens for further treatment and eventually was admitted to Parkway Hospital. After eleven days of extensive testing the diagnosis was the same. When he was released and tried to get emergency treatment at Brookhaven Hospital at Brookhaven Hospital

he was refused. I feel that the doctors were right in considering a muscle sprain somewhat less than an emergency, especially since Mr. Worrel was already under treatment.

After almost three months of bedrest for a muscle sprain, I exercised my right as an employer to have Robert Worrel's case investigated to ascertain his physical disability and continued eligibility for benefits.

I have confidence you will print this letter so that the public will not be misled by the erroneous statements made in your April 12th article.

Very truly yours,
Paul A. Karpowicz
Owner, PK Builder.

ED. NOTE: Worrel was seen by residents at the hospitals, but because of the boycott the orthopedic surgeons refused.

'Thank you so much for your help'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In response to your story done on my husband in your April 12th issue. Thank you so much for all your help. I can not thank you enough.

We have received several phone calls from people who are experiencing the same problems because they are on compensation. We have had many people directing us in different ways. A physical therapist called us up and told us he would take the case and he would accept anything compensation would

pay for. A chiropractor's secretary called us and told us he could help him.

Our special thanks to Roy Kahn for such an excellent story. I hope that other people out there who are experiencing these problems will call you and maybe we can get the legislation passed that we need.

Thank you again.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Dorothy V. Worrel
Mastic

'I'm in accord with LILCO'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

As a dwelling owner and an all year round resident of East Hampton, I am in accord with LILCO in there requiring seasonal customers, such as motels, hotels, restaurants, etc., to pay a charge during the months when they are closed. LILCO, like their seasonal customers, have to pay property taxes or rent all year round. They likewise have maintenance, depreciation and other costs and charges, which are ongoing all year round.

The prices which the seasonal business operators charge their customers takes into account the expenses which they incur during the off season, so why should they criticize LILCO for doing the same thing. If they don't pay their fair share of LILCO's all year round expenses it will be passed on to LILCO's other customers, which would be very unfair.

The only part of the charge under the ratchet clause which I felt was unfair was their not deducting the cost of fuel used to

generate electricity during the closed months and their not basing the monthly charge on the average monthly charge during their operating period instead of the highest monthly one.

Included in LILCO's charge to all of it's customers is a part of their expenses in building the nuclear plant at Shoreham. Until the plant is completed, operating and furnishing some of the electricity which we use, I can see no reason why we should be obliged to pay for the same. If this is the only way they can get the necessary money to build the plant they should be obliged to credit such charge towards the purchase of stock in the company in the name of each customer until the charge is eliminated and pay them the going rate of dividends thereon. Any other business which wants to expand has to pay such costs out of earnings, issue more stock or sell bonds.

Yours very truly,
Chester M. Baylis
East Hampton

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Compliments of Uncle Sam

Since Vietnam and Watergate and more recently, the Panama Canal rip-off, I have had mixed feelings about the United States government. My feelings have ranged from flag waving support to outright contempt.

I don't think I have ever felt so rotten about my government as I did the other night watching the news on the boob tube. The story dealt with a young girl's death. That death was caused by the actions of our government.

For years, the government attempted to prove or at least create substantial doubt that the usage of marijuana is damaging to your health. We all were bombarded with so-called scientific studies produced by the government claiming grass would lead to harder drugs. Those who favored the legalization of pot, claimed the use of marijuana is safe.

While both sides argued, the real research was going on in the streets. This proved that both sides were right. The usage of marijuana and

the effect it has on your health is determined by the head of the person using it.

Some people can smoke marijuana with absolutely no ill effects. For others, it becomes a psychological addiction, an escape mentally for avoiding reality that is counter-productive.



State governments, faced with the growing illegal usage of this substance, half-heartedly have come to grips with the situation by decriminalizing pot possession, making it quasi-legal. It has put pot smoking into a grey area of the law, a kind of a no man's land.

Into this no man's land, a young girl was trapped. She obtained marijuana from an illegal source and smoked it. This unregulated marijuana was contaminated with paraquat.

It was contaminated because the Mexican government had sprayed the marijuana fields with this poisonous herbicide. This paraquat was sup-

plied by the United States government.

cause citizens to contract a fatal disease is a horrible miscarriage. The government, with all its efforts, has not been able to stop the illegal flow of marijuana into the U.S. It must have been totally aware that the chemically-contaminated Mexican marijuana would eventually find its way onto the streets.

The anger I feel because of my government over this is the same type of anger I felt about the Germans killing 11,000,000 innocent people in WWII. It shows the same disregard for human life.

As a father, I have tried to explain to my children the ramifications of becoming involved with pot and alcohol. As much as we have discussed this subject, I am realistic enough to know at some point in time, the kids may fall victim to peer pressure and experiment.

If this happens I only hope to God that they do not meet the same fate that young girl did. And why not?

LILCO should heed warning

The aristocrats who run LILCO are probably comfortably sitting back in their double-breasted suits chuckling at the efforts of the little Long Island Rate Payers Association. LIRA, currently a small group of unhappy LILCO customers, has singly taken on LILCO. It's like David and Goliath. LIRA is advocating that Suffolk County take over the functions of LILCO. As perposterous and far-fetched as this idea may seem, it could become a reality as the initial numbers based on the Westchester study indicate that LILCO ratepayers could save up to 38 per cent on their cost of electricity if the county operated the utility. There isn't one of us on Long Island, even employees of LILCO, who would not welcome this kind of reduction in electrical bills.

Currently, rates we pay for electricity are based upon LILCO's cost of producing electricity and delivering it into our homes. LILCO, regardless of how much they spend or squander, is guaranteed a big net profit.

The profit LILCO makes is fixed by the Public Service Commission and they have been very very generous to LILCO over the years.

To increase the dollars in profits LILCO makes, it simply increases the expense of procuring and distributing electricity. The rate you pay includes the cost of LILCO's futuristic and potentially deadly nuclear plants and other generating facilities. The rate you pay also includes the money LILCO is investing in power plants, not only here on Long Island but as far away as Lake Ontario in upstate New York. Much of this electricity never will be used here on Long Island.

LILCO is a stockholder owned corporation. It's primarily in business to make money for its

shareholders. The service they provide to the consumer is secondary to the profits they make.

LIRA has asked the county to study the feasibility and the economic impact of taking over LILCO's current facilities within Suffolk. Instead of generating more electricity here, it advocates purchasing of electricity from PASNY, the Power Authority of New York, the state owned and operated electrical generating corporation. Their rates are far below what it costs LILCO to generate electricity.

Philosophically, Suffolk Life has always been and is opposed to the government becoming involved in private enterprise, even utilities. If LILCO continues to put its profits before the needs of Long Islanders, we will be forced to abandon this philosophy and support the LIRA's proposal.

The county legislature owes it to the residents of Suffolk to authorize the funds necessary for a study on this proposal as was done in Westchester. Only after a study is conducted for Suffolk County can we ascertain the facts concerning the feasibility of a drastic switch like this in Suffolk.

The management of LILCO could avoid the possibility of losing their privately-owned corporation to the government by supporting legislation that would change the methods under which rates are set. Rates should be set once based on cost savings not cost extravagance.

If we were sitting in a management position at LILCO, we do not think we would be chuckling at the LIRA. We would be looking for people-oriented ways of avoiding this ultimate confrontation. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'I invite him to come and worship with me'

Dear Sirs,

After reading your article in the April 12 edition of Suffolk Life, I felt I should write to say a misrepresentation of our feelings has been given.

As a full Gospel Church, we follow our Lord's command to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is our neighbor's choice of location for his junk car business we object to. Much time and money were invested in beautifying Patchogue-Yaphank Road and it is a beautiful stretch of highway except for Mr. Groppa's violation. His junk cars are an

eyesore.

Scripture tells us a man shouldn't eat if he doesn't work so we would not be inclined to support his quitting. We hold no hard feelings toward Mr. Groppa. I invite him to come and worship with us and experience the reality of a living saviour in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for allowing me to share my feelings on this matter.

Eileen Fichter
Member of Calvary Full Gospel of Yaphank

Stumbling giant

Dear Editor:

I read with interest "PSC Lacks L.I. Number", Sunday Suffolk Life.

It comes as no surprise that PSC hasn't a toll free number, as a matter of fact, they have no one's number, with the exception of the utility co.

Whenever a company asks for an increase, PSC makes a watered down feeble attempt to block it (the increase).

The odds are that we the people will have it stuck in our ears.

The PSC, who needs that stumbling, mumbling giant?

Howard F. Van Allen

'Senior-itis'

Dear Sir,

In your May 3 edition Mr. Thomas A. Castro responded to the issue of "senioritis" in high school. I now respond to Mr. Castro. One definition of a child is that the child believes and it is not till maturity that an adult understands that it is in the "doing" not the "saying" wherein accountability lies.

I recommend that Mr. Castro switch emphasis from saying to doing; and in this way, we can all benefit from those thoughts which were mature, and apply the salt to those that were merely a massage of ego.

H.W. Carr
Southold

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It's in your hands

Probably one of the biggest shocks any of us here on Long Island receives is finding out when you buy a house the amount you pay in mortgage payments will go up year after year.

The mortgage payments themselves do not change, but the lending institutions collect real estate taxes on a monthly basis and as taxes rise, so do your payments.

To most people, the purchase of a house is the major investment they make in a lifetime. Careful financial planning goes into this decision. Payments are figured down to the penny and balanced against spendable income.

Thousands of people, young and old, have been forced out of their homes by foreclosures and forced sales because they could not anticipate the rapid acceleration of property taxes. That tax liability has been caused by the bulging bureaucracy's ever-increasing demands for more programs and spending.

Californians have faced the same problems as New Yorkers. But on June 3, they may well put an end to it.

Using the newly enacted public initiative law, they will have a referendum on a proposition limiting the property taxes on their homes to one per cent of the true value, based on 1975-1976 assessment. The proposition also states this assessment cannot be changed until the home changes ownership. Then the new assessment will be based upon the purchase price of the home.

When this referendum is passed,

taxes will be stabilized in California.

Young and old people will benefit. Senior citizens will no longer be disgracefully forced to give up the houses they have lived in all their life by having an ever-increasing tax load placed on their shoulders. Their homes will no longer be subjected to constant reappraisals resulting in higher tax bills.

Californians will be able to choose whether they want this system, because their legislators had the courage to enact the public initiative law enabling people to bring to a referendum votes politicians have been unwilling to introduce.

We can have a public initiative law here in New York, if you demand one. Public initiative should be a state-wide issue in this November's election. The Gubernatorial candidates should make their positions known firmly and forcefully; candidates for the state Assembly and the Senate likewise should be forced to take a stand.

Public initiative gives you the absolute and direct voice in your government. It will return to you the power taken from you by the bureaucrats, who arrogantly feel they know what is better for you than you know yourself.

Public initiative is probably the only hope we have of pulling New York State, particularly Long Island and Suffolk, out of financial dilemma it is in. Our elected politicians have not had the nerve to say 'no' to special interest groups that have demanded our government's expansion and inflationary cost.

Public initiative takes these politicians off the hot seat and gives the people the right to determine what is best for themselves.

Let all of us make public initiative the burning issue of campaign '78. And why not?

REACT groups throughout the county.

Channel 9 is for emergency transmitting only. Do not abuse it by engaging in idle chit-chat. Mariners should use channel 13 and 15, which by tradition and location, are the favored channels for fishing, boating information and conversation.

We know the Coast Guard's decision to monitor a channel will result in this fine organization being of even further service to mariners.

We had felt the decision of the Coast Guard's big-whigs to arbitrarily refuse to monitor CB's in the past was a tragic mistake.

According to a letter we had in our files, they had based their reasoning on the erroneous concept that there were more VHF radios installed on boats than CB's.

We can't speak for other parts of the country, but we suspect that in the New York area, there are at least 20 CB's for every VHF boat afloat. And why not?

Brookhaven gets stiffed

The federal government, through the Farmers Home Administration recently gave Brookhaven the short end of the stick when they arbitrarily ruled this town ineligible for its low interest mortgages.

The F.H.A. disregarded current statistics and demographics when they made this decision. Brookhaven is a huge town, in fact, the largest town geographically in New York State. It is bigger than many counties, including Nassau, and nearly as large as Rhode Island state.

Like other, larger government subdivisions, Brookhaven is diverse. Parts of the town are heavily populated, others, most noticeably Manorville are still rural. The FHA's decision, economically, is a disaster, according to John Randolph, Brookhaven Town Supervisor.

The cumulative effect would be a loss of almost \$250 million in business.

FHA mortgages have been responsible for the building of an average of a thousand homes per year.

Randolph fears the FHA decision will cause a potential loss of 10,000 jobs. Most of these jobs are in the construction field, which is already suffering an unbearable unemployment rate. Randolph has no objection to FHA closing mortgages

west of the William Floyd Parkway, but he is terribly concerned about the areas of Brookhaven lying to the east.

Even David J. Nolan, the state director of Farmers Home Administration in a signed letter dated 1976 admitted the eastern portion of Brookhaven Town was within the federal guidelines for the mortgage program. He stated he believed that area of Brookhaven is similar in character to the five eastern townships and should be considered eligible under FHA's rural area definition.

Randolph charges that no evidence has been introduced to indicate why the standards of the FHA program as applied to Brookhaven are different today than they were two years ago when Nolan's letter was written.

Randolph's concern is legitimate. Without FHA financing, thousands of low and middle income families will be forced to continue to live in cramped and substandard conditions.

Brookhaven, unlike the East End wants to grow and is in a position to offer services East End towns refuse to provide. The Brookhaven locations are closer commuting distances to Long Island's industrial belt and job market.

Our Congressman, Otis Pike and our Senators Jacob Javits and Daniel Moynihan should investigate this matter. They are our representatives in Washington and have the power to cut through the federal bureaucracy and determine why and on what basis this arbitrary decision was made. Let's hope these federally elected officials do their duty. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'All I can see is darkness'

Dear Sir,

My family just moved to Lake Ronkonkoma three weeks ago. I find that it is very dark on the parkways at night without any street lights. A conversation could go like this on the C.B. radio.

Breaker, breaker, calling the police department, I think they call him Smokey out here.

Police ----this is Smokey.

Jelly Belly----Sir, they call it Con Ed in the city, out on the Island I think they call it LILCO. Would you mind calling them, I think there is a power failure on the Long Island Expressway.

Police ---- What makes you say that.

Jelly Belly ----Because in the city they throw

the switch for the street lights on at 4 o'clock. Sir, it's after midnight and LILCO still hasn't put the street lights on on the L.I.E. Police ----They don't have street lights on the Expressway.

Jelly Bell, what! The only thing I can see is two tail lights from the car ahead of me and if he goes off the highway I'm sure as hell am gonna follow him, so please have LILCO turn the switch on for the street lights on the highway. Thank You.

I just heard someone on the C.B. say "It's clean and green", all I can see is darkness. L-8C

Sincerely,
Jelly Belly

Coast Guard ears are on

As you probably know by now, the Coast Guard is for the first time monitoring CB's.

This is great news for small boaters, and even many larger crafts, whose owners cannot afford the more expensive VHF sets.

Don't become over-confident. Remember CB's have a very limited range compared with VHF radios. When a signal is being heavily used, its usefulness as a safety device will be further limited.

The Coast Guard has chosen to monitor channel 9, which is the safety channel on your Citizen Band radio, already monitored by the various

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Would King John Twist An Arm?

Land of Suffering, in the Spring of 1978, Oh! my fellow sufferers, do I have a tale of woe that happened in that great hall of unreality.

If I could take you back to the crisp autumn of 1977 there emerged a shiny knight who gave us hope in our hour of distress.

We thought he might be a man mighty enough to stand up to the wicked King, who has been so repressive to the good citizens of Suffering.

This shiny knight, a barrister by trade, is a small man in stature but talked like a man who had the heart of a lion. He had seen the repression, the absolute power the King had over the court of the people -- the legislature.

In campaigning for the people's support, Sir Denis promised never to betray the trust the people put in him. He claimed he'd never give into the King. He promised he would suffer the tortures of the damned, the rack, thumb screws, cat-o-nine-tails, and whatever else the wicked King had in his dungeon.

He even promised when he became a representative if he could not make the legislature an independent body, he would work for its dissolution, even though it would mean giving up the job he was seeking.

When Sir Denis entered the arena in the great hall of wisdom we saw he was filled with confidence of victory.

The winter winds now have subsided and the snows have melted. The blossoms are bursting forth giving us new hope and with the heralding of the Spring, we find Sir Denis with his arm obviously twisted beyond recognition.

Although the scars are invisible, we can only assume that wicked King John had in his dungeon an implement of torture far worse than we ever could have imagined.

You see dear fellow peasants of Suffering, Sir Denis gallantly and bravely co-sponsored a resolution with Sir Feldman, a man of an opposite political faith.

It called for the rehiring of a fellow peon Wayne Valentine by name, who served his time in the Department of Environmental Control.

When the knights of the great hall of unreality called upon Wayne and two of his co-workers to give testimony of fact -- honest fact, he did.

This testimony told of great dangers to drinking water that probably could result from some bad decisions that had been made by the King's henchmen in charge of the department.

The King had sold the peons of the Southwest Realm a sewer system by using a lot of mistruths and half-truths. The sewers have bankrupted these poor people. And now, because of the inadequate design and lack of consideration to groundwater tables, these people may also be faced with a

massive public water system to keep the land liveable.

When peasant Valentine testified truthfully about his findings, the Duke of the Sewer Ducts, Sir John Flynn and his henchmen pushed Valentine into the corner.

When Valentine lost his "cool", they gleefully fired him for cause. Ironically, his one instance of losing his temper was provoked and was the only blemish contained on his record.

The resolution Sir Denis and Sir Feldman presented was only an advisory resolution.

It requested the King to investigate and to reinstate this employee.

The King cannot stand to take advice from anyone. He called a secret court where he demanded the presence of all those legislators, who claimed to be Republicans.

At this court, on the night before a meeting of the Knights in the hall of unreality, the King is supposed to have twisted some arms.

We can only guess of the mighty new weapon the King must have in his arsenal to have twisted Sir Denis's arm so dramatically that he would have forsaken his words he uttered with such conviction last fall.

Sir Denis, reduced to size, meekly withdrew his name from the simple advisory legislative action and aided in a 9-9 stalemate which resulted in defeat.

Sir Denis must now look at himself in the mirror and ask how he is going to ever get anyone within the county to truthfully tell of their jobs.

By this simple lack of courage, he has broadcast to all those in the employment in the kingdom that they must fear for their jobs and their existence.

Truth will no longer be tolerated for there is no shiny knight to stand up for the peasants' rights.

The fearful and wicked King has won again! That is, unless maybe, just maybe, Sir Denis and a few of the others, who came into the legislature on January 1, will have a renewing of spirit and will to fight for what is honest and right. And why not?

Dear Sir,

I have had it with your one-sided, holier-than-thou, anti-public education attitude! I have never seen such a flagrant abuse of journalistic influence on the public; nor is there another local publication that has delivered so much destructive criticism of the public education system.

Your latest attack was in your comment on the voucher system being considered by Congress entitled "Voucher system is in your best interest." You compare the public education system to a business monopoly and say that competition "always brings out the best in people." You continue to say that there is no meaningful control on expenditures by the public school system and that this system is, at best, mediocre.

Public schools, unlike private schools, do not have the luxury of setting standards for accepting students for enrollment. Public schools are told, by law, to accept all students regardless of their academic ability, behavioral or emotional problems, parental

interest and cooperation or lack of it. The law says take them all. The law then goes on to say that the public schools must provide for the special needs of each of its students, be they academic, psychological, nutritional, remedial, etc. and yet everybody in the public and media circles - you, in particular, locally -- keeps screaming about the high taxes and the high cost of operating public schools. These services do not come cheap, let alone free.

I am sick and tired of having our educational system attacked by you. Get off your high opinion and walk into the classroom and get a taste of the real thing. In other words, sir, do some actual field work on the subject. Destructive criticism has no place in responsible journalism; constructive criticism is imperative to improvement. Remember -- if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem!

Sincerely,
Marguerite Bonanno
Moriches

Readers' Opinion

LILCO waste: Two views

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I was very pleased by reading "LILCO wastes every day", (Readers Opinions, May 3, 1978 - Vol. 18 - No. 17), but I was very surprised that this man had so little to complain about LILCO waste.

He mentioned the waste of paper, lumber and scrap metal which is in very large volume (iron, copper, aluminum, in tens of tons) and as far as I know, it is not disposed.

He neglected to mention that over 1,500 people are employed on Shoreham plant, but only 25 per cent actually do the hard work. There are hundreds of people of every trade wandering around, grossing over \$600 weekly without getting their hands dirty. Over 75 per cent of the foremen of every trade are completely incompetent and so are most of the supers and assistants.

Too many workers of every trade are paid high wages plus plenty of overtime, at double pay, just for sleeping on the job, playing cards days and nights or reading Playboy magazine or other dirty books.

Many inspectors on every level, days after days, are holding up hundreds of men, because they do not inspect their work on time. All these men are on stand-by for hours and hours, even when on double time. Dozens of large mobile trailers are kept open day and night with the thermostats set at 80 degrees.

Many boxes of costly hardware of every kind are disposed of. Some are not even opened as yet. Construction lumber of every size and in excellent condition is disposed by the truckload daily.

Duplication of many costly and unnecessary projects is very common and so are the many mistakes made by everybody.

I have been working on this job for over four years and I just can't take any more of this nonsense waste of millions and millions of dollars that everyone of us unjustly have to pay for the rest of our life.

I hope that the PSC will investigate this

mess and deny any future rate increases to LILCO.

I hope you'll understand why I do not sign this letter, and believe me there is much more and it is the real truth.

Faithful reader of your paper

To the Editor:

The unsigned letter to the editor in your May 3 issue that alleges extensive waste of various types of materials at LILCO's Shoreham generating unit construction site, is completely erroneous. In fact, the Shoreham construction program provides for extensive recycling of materials and resultant construction cost savings.

For example, we conduct recovery programs for aluminum, copper and steel scraps. These waste metals are segregated into different bins and are sold to recovery contractors. The funds from these sales are used to reduce the overall construction costs of Shoreham.

In the case of lumber, large pieces are reused many times for temporary equipment supports and other non-permanent functions. Small pieces and cut lumber are not recycled since the cost of reclaiming this material (removing nails, cutting standard lengths, sorting, etc.) is more than the cost of using new lumber. Recycling this lumber would result in an increase in the construction costs ultimately borne by the Long Island ratepayer and, therefore, it is not done. This "scrapped" lumber is not available for distribution to the general public because of the added costs of setting up such a program. Whenever any material is scrapped, it is cheaper to handle it this way than to recycle it.

LILCO has had for some time a paper recycling program at installations that use a high volume of paper such as computer centers and engineering offices. The paper generated at the Shoreham site, while considerable, is not enough to justify inclusion into this program. However, the situation at Shoreham is reevaluated periodically. Should it prove at some point to be economically advantageous, this paper recycling program will be extended to the Shoreham site.

In summary, LILCO has been employing recycling techniques at the Shoreham construction site for several years, and these programs do, in fact, result in a net decrease in the ultimate cost of Shoreham to the ratepayers.

Very truly yours,
William J. Museler
Assistant Project Manager
Shoreham Nuclear Power Station

ED. NOTE: That's not what the people who are working at Shoreham everyday are saying. We have had a number of complaints along the same line from people who are employed there, but are also ratepayers.

SUFFOLK LIFE

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Now is the time

cont. from the cover

duplication of town effort and a layer of wasteful bureaucracy.

The lawmaking in the county could be and should be a function performed by the supervisors of the 10 towns, as it was in the past, and still is being done in Nassau County.

The county legislature was brought about by the Supreme Court ruling based on a one-man, one-vote principle. Under the old board of supervisors, each supervisor had an equal vote regardless of the number of people living in the town he came from. This gave the supervisor of tiny Shelter Island equal vote and power with supervisors from Huntington, Brookhaven, Islip and other West End towns.

The Supreme Court ruled the board of supervisors either had to adopt the weighted vote system or create a separate legislative layer of government.

Politicians from both parties, anxious to create more jobs and an additional layer of bureaucracy during the good growth times of Suffolk County, instituted the wasteful county legislature.

The 10 towns, which were represented by the supervisors at a cost of \$5,000 each, were broken into 18 legislative districts. Legislators currently are paid \$22,500 per year for this part-time job.

Worse than the expenditure of the money is the lack of visibility of these legislators. A recent poll indicated few residents are even dimly aware who their legislator is. At the same time, most have an idea who their town supervisor is and know he can be reached at the town hall.

The legislature has to vote to dissolve its own function or the citizens must demand a charter revision. Neither are likely to come to pass without an outpouring of pressure from the average hard-working residents.

In introducing his resolution, Hurley surprisingly has received backing from West End veteran Legislator Louis Howard, who is equally disgusted with the ineptness and inability of the legislature to act as a counter-balance for the County Executive.

Hurley is asking for your support. He hopes the petition he is circulating will force a reluctant legislature to allow a ban the legislature ballot in this November's election.

Over the years, Suffolk Life has editorialized strongly about the weaknesses of the county legislature, its lack of organization and its inability to function as a representative body of government.

We have also brought to the public's attention the tremendous duplication that is taking place and the outlandish waste of your hard-earned tax dollars it eats up with non-productive efforts.

We encourage everybody whether they favor keeping or abandoning the legislature to take the petition, found in Suffolk Life this week, out and have them signed so the public voice can be heard.

PETITION

TO: Suffolk County Legislature
County Center
Riverhead, New York

RE: Referendum to Consider Replacing the Suffolk County Legislature with a Weighted Board of Supervisors

We, the undersigned, residents of Suffolk County, hereby request the Legislature to pass the necessary resolution to provide us with the opportunity to vote at a referendum on the question of whether the legislative branch of Suffolk County government should continue to be the Suffolk County Legislature, or whether the County Legislature should be replaced by a weighted Board of Supervisors.

NAME ADDRESS (Street and Town)

Blank lines for entering names and addresses.

Please mail completed petitions to: 'Ban the legislature', Suffolk Life, Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977

Take the petition to your neighbors, to your friends and to your place of work.

By getting the petition filled out, you will be able to make a very direct step in bringing the government bureaucracy under control.

You will also be playing an important role in bringing back a better form of government to Suffolk County, one that will cost you far less in the future.

When you have this petition signed, mail them to either Legislator Hurley or to Suffolk Life who will forward them to him. Do your part, take part, in your government. And why not?

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Working on the railroad

Three or four times last year, I came across crews working on the railroad. They were repairing road crossings. Again this year, I have gone past them on a half dozen occasions.

Like last year, there is a crew of between 12 and 20 men putting in time. I have yet to go by any of these crews where many of the men at the same time appear to be engaged in any action other than standing, watching and looking bored as hell.

I suppose this is a way of life for these men, a way of life that is crippling the railroad and the economy of Long Island. Railroad unions are notorious for featherbedding, but I could not help but wonder if these men really are satisfied doing nothing.

The Long Island Railroad is in miserable, horrendous shape. The roadbeds have deteriorated to such a condition, trains traveling on the East End must reduce their speed to as low as 15 mph.

Trains back in the early 1900's were able to make the trip from Montauk to Jamaica in far less time and at a fraction of the cost than in 1978.

We can understand the union's desire to maintain jobs and positions. We could also understand the demands for higher wages and benefits if there was productivity.

We can't understand the demands for archaic work rules resulting in men being forced to stand around and waste their lives.

It is obvious, even to an outsider, there are more men on the job than are needed to accomplish the objectives.

Couldn't some of these men be transferred to other job assignments and be put to work doing meaningful labor that would correct real problems?

Long Island has the reputation for having one of the worst railroads in the country. The same men, being paid the same salaries, could be utilized far more productively.

Through their efforts, they could be doing their part to help restore the railroad to a position of being an important transportation link.

One fact businesses and industries use as an argument for not settling or staying on Long Island is poor transportation and its high cost.

Long Island does not have an effective, efficient and productive railroad, even after pouring millions of dollars into this facility over the last decade. As businesses and industries move from Long Island, jobs are dried up for productive people.

This comes right back and affects the railroad workers' lives. Their sons and daughters, as well as the rest of Long Island's residents, are being denied opportunities.

We can't help but think the men and women, who work on the Long Island Railroad, would much prefer to put in an honest day's work for a decent day's pay, than be forced to stand around putting in time but not accomplishing anything.

The Long Island Railroad unions should realize the devastating effect wasteful work rules are causing, not only on the railroad, but the overall economy of Long Island.

The membership itself should demand the abolishment of featherbedding jobs and non-productive work rules.

We believe they would willingly accept an opportunity to be productive and to work their hardest to rebuild a railroad that all Long Island could be proud of.

Productivity on the Long Island Railroad will not mean a loss of jobs. It will result in a better, more economical transportation system that will be an asset instead of a liability.

We can write all the editorials we want. You can complain as bitterly as you like, but the initiative, the action, must come from within the Long Island Railroad unions before a change can take place. And why not?

Who said politics doesn't pay?

Politicians often talk about how poorly they are paid. You hear a lot of this talk when they are looking for a raise.

The next time a politician gives you this line of malarkey, use as an example in your defense our esteemed Senator Jacob Javits from New York.

Javits was a poor boy who was raised on the lower East Side. Some how, during the time he has served his country as a Senator, he has ended up with an estate, now estimated to be worth \$2.5 million, and homes in Washington and Manhattan valued up to \$250,000. Last year, his declared

net earnings were \$66,410.

Guess what?

He managed to pay only \$12,353 in federal, state, and New York City income taxes, and Social Security taxes. This is probably less than many people paid here on Long Island with a real legitimate income of less than one-half of what Javits claimed he earned.

When Javits retires at the end of this term as he is expected to do, he should write a book, "How to Succeed in Politics and become a Millionaire."

It would make fascinating reading. And why not?

Have I got a job for you

The blatant practice of nepotism has gotten too much for some members of the Suffolk County Legislature. Both Robert Mrazek and Denis Hurley are introducing resolutions calling for curbs on nepotism in Suffolk County.

As revealed by Suffolk Life in a series of articles over the last six months, a number of highly-placed county officials have feathered the family nest by employing their sons and daughters in county positions.

Lou Tempera, the county labor czar, found employment for his sons and daughters.

John Flynn, the sewer king, had both his sons placed on the county payroll. Deputy County Executive, the county attorney and department heads have also used your tax dollars to hire their kids and place them in well paying jobs.

At the same time, tax-paying citizens, with ample qualifications but no connections, have been denied an opportunity for these positions.

Mrazek introduced the resolution out of plain and simple disgust.

Mrazek, who is noted for having his ear to the ground, has recognized how irresponsible and objectionable this practice is to his constituents.

His resolution calls for periodic publication of the names of relatives of top county officials who have gotten county jobs.

Jabbing at those officials' defense, Mrazek said the publication of names will show "that these relatives...were awarded their non-civil service jobs solely through their unique and extraordinary talents."

Hurley's proposal would require the county legislature to approve the hiring of any relative of a department head or designated top administrator.

While not banning hiring of relatives, it will put a spotlight on the practice, provide an extra check on the issue, and as a result, drastically curb past abuses.

We are glad to see Mrazek and Hurley take the bull by the horns on this issue. Suffolk County has been the playground for those in power too long. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'Can the Republican Party seize back the initiative?'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am a candidate for the Republican nomination to succeed Otis Pike and I would like to tell you why I am running.

I admired Pike - as many of us have - for his direct and independent style of politics, particularly for his protection of taxpayers money. In this I would follow his example.

But there is a fundamental political challenge facing us in 1978: can the Republican Party seize back the initiative and restore itself as a viable national alternative? In Suffolk County there is little hope if the County organization is as complacent and unimaginative in picking Republican Candidates as it has been in the past.

Organizations are supposed to find winners, but our Republican Uncles, in an area that is still heavily Republican, have managed to lose all three Congressional seats and half of Suffolk's Assembly seats to the Democrats. Something is terribly wrong when the voters of one party regularly choose the candidates of the other. If this trend continues, we will have no choice at all. At that moment, we are at the mercy of a single political force and there are no checks and balances to protect our interests.

The Republican Party has talent and if the party organization cannot find it, we rank and file voters must be ready to step forward ourselves.

I have decided to make that step, and I will be calling on all Republicans to work with me for the open party we so desperately need.

The problems of Suffolk County are unusually diverse and complex. In the modern environment, public servants are required to be effective managers of limited public resources. The cost of living, the energy crisis and the threat to our environment demand from those who present themselves for public office a higher level of skill and competence than ever before. The consequences of accepting anything less will be disastrous for my party and for our community.

I look forward to discussing this further with you and would like to benefit from the advice that you can provide as a very constructive and influential participant in the life of Suffolk County.

Yours sincerely,
Jay Radway
Amagansett

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 18

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willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Will the California tax revolt reach Long Island?

On June 13th, lifestyles in California will probably change dramatically.

Like Long Islanders, Californians have been taxed literally out of their homes. Politicians kept telling the people they couldn't do anything about it. It was the people, who were fighting the demands for services from government. The cost of these services the politicians claimed was responsible for the increase in taxes.

Just as on Long Island municipal unions, police, firemen and teachers have had their unrealistic demands given in to without regard to the taxpayers' ability to fund.

Utilizing the initiative laws recently passed in the State of California, Californians will vote June 13th on a resolution popularly called the Jarrets Proposal.

If this resolution is passed, real estate assessments can only be changed when a house is sold. Increase in real estate taxes will be limited to a maximum of 1 per cent per year. Any other tax such as sales or income taxes, must have at least two thirds approval of the legislative body which is attempting to enact the law.

The voters of California are taking back control of their government. At present, this measure is expected to pass.

It's leading 39 to 41 per cent in the polls. The campaign being waged against this proposal is enormous.

All municipal, civil service and teachers' unions in the state are spending their treasures dry trying to defeat the measure.

Politicians, power brokers and bureaucrats are running frantically up and down the coastline charging that the state's finances will be in

utter chaos.

They are alleging schools will be forced to close and many projects and services will have to be abated.

These bureaucrats are beside themselves with fear of the average citizen, who they have so long abused and used so wantonly. They are amazed that everyday people could ever possibly fight back.

They had gotten so used to government being their private preserve they can't even imagine a government of the people and by the people.

On June 14th, we will learn whether California citizens have been successful in beating the whole bureaucratic system and putting it in its place.

We suspect Californians will win out over the politicians and be able to survive by putting a lid on taxes.

New York State, like California, desperately needs an initiative law also, that will allow its citizens to rise up over the bureaucracy when the bureaucracy fails to meet their demands.

Such a law should be passed and could be passed into law in the next session of the legislature.

Luckily, every seat in the Senate and the Assembly plus the Governorship is up for grabs this November. Every candidate running must be made to declare his intention on this issue, and be committed to the passage of such a measure before he is even considered worthy of your support.

Feel him out, and work for those candidates who believe our government should be a government of the people and by the people. And why not?

"New York State like California desperately needs an initiative law that will allow its citizens to rise over the bureaucracy . . ."

Did you pay for your subscription?

All subscriptions for Suffolk Life were due and payable on January 1st of this year. I was going over our circulation records the other day and noted, although a great many people have already voluntarily sent in their subscription, many others have not.

If you failed or forgot to renew your subscription on January 1st, won't you do so now? A voluntary subscription paid at the first of the year within our circulation area is only \$4.99 per year.

This entitles you to delivery to your home every Saturday and every Wednesday of what has become one of the best weekly newspapers in the country.

Our system of circulation, granted, is unorthodox. We operate under a very simple premise, and maybe, an outmoded one -- it is called honesty. We deliver Suffolk Life to your home on a voluntary, paid basis.

We ask you to pay for the paper voluntarily once a year. We depend upon your honesty to do so.

Suffolk Life is not a free newspaper. When we first started the paper, we did distribute it totally free. In 1967, we found we could no longer afford to continue this practice and changed over to a voluntary, paid basis.

At that time, we asked for voluntary payments of \$1 per year from every receiving household. During the first

month of the drive, over 50 per cent of those who were receiving the paper paid for their subscription. Thousands of others paid for it during the year.

Each year since then, we have run a subscription drive asking for payment for the paper. Granted \$4.99 is a small price to pay for a whole year's home delivery of this paper. On the newsstands, we charge 25 cents per copy.

Even at this high figure, we do not recoup the cost of producing that copy. Paying \$4.99 a year or about 5 cents per copy for home-delivery has to be one of the biggest bargains around.

Would you please check your records; if you have not already sent in your subscription, we would appreciate it if you would do so today.

Please fill out the enclosed form below, and send it to Suffolk Life Newspapers, P.O. Box 262, Westhampton, New York, 11977.

Please renew my subscription to Suffolk Life for 1978.
Enclosed is \$4.99

Name _____
Street _____
Town _____

Save yourself \$2 million next year

Last week, we printed on our editorial page a petition form, which calls for the county legislature to hold a referendum on whether to abolish itself.

So far, the response has been gratifying. Scores of petitions have been turned into this office and in less than one week's time well over 1,000 names have been collected.

Some people want to become so involved in saving themselves by eliminating at least one level of bureaucracy they have asked for more petitions (Something we will gladly provide if you write us at Suffolk Life, Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977).

There are some people, however, who may not have the time to go around getting petitions signed because of back breaking hours they keep just to keep bread on the family table and pay the outlandish taxes passed by our politicians.

Even if you're too busy to get very involved, take just one moment to make your voice heard. Fill out the One Man Petition at the bottom of the page.

By doing so, you will be putting the politicians on notice that you want the control of the government back in your hands where it belongs.

Unless the politicians see an overwhelming groundswell of support from working people like us, they'll stay comfy and secure in their \$22,500 a year jobs forever.

Strike a blow against government waste. Send us your One Man petitions now. And why not?

Ban the legislature

I, the undersigned, a Suffolk County resident request the county legislature to pass a resolution to hold a referendum of whether the county legislature should be replaced by the Board of Supervisors with a weighted vote.

Name _____
Address _____

Ban the legislature

I, the undersigned, a Suffolk County resident request the county legislature to pass a resolution to hold a referendum of whether the county legislature should be replaced by the Board of Supervisors with a weighted vote.

Name _____
Address _____

Ban the legislature

I, the undersigned, a Suffolk County resident request the county legislature to pass a resolution to hold a referendum of whether the county legislature should be replaced by the Board of Supervisors with a weighted vote.

Name _____
Address _____

SUFFOLK LIFE VOL. 18 NO. 25
NEWSPAPERS

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

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Total circulation audited and verified or sworn to be in excess of **195,000 Circulation Twice 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.

John McKay - General Manager
Maxine Holmes - Production Director
Darlene Albin - Advertising Art Director

David J. Willmott - Editor and Publisher
Norman Hirsch - Director of Sales
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Rick Brand - News Editor
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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.

Wednesday, May 31, 1978
SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS
PAGE 3

Second reason to ban legislature

The petition drive initiated by Legislator Denis Hurley and Suffolk Life Newspapers is off to a smashing start. A large number of signed petitions have already been returned to our office from all areas covered by Suffolk Life.

It appears the public, like ourselves, have had it with the high cost and lack of responsiveness by the legislature.

The reason for the lack of responsiveness is quite clear when you understand the history behind the legislature.

Up until 1970, the county government was run by a Board of Supervisors. Each supervisor of the 10 towns doubled in his job and once every other week, met in Riverhead to quickly and efficiently go over county business.

Because these supervisors had firsthand knowledge of their towns and were visible to their constituents, they had good pulse of the community. Because of their knowledge of the towns they were able to keep county government from duplicating its efforts.

In the late 60's, an action was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States alleging the current form of county representation was unconstitutional because the one man, one vote principle was being violated, because small towns had the same vote as large towns. The Supreme Court agreed that the system was unconstitutional. They ordered the county board to either adopt a weighted vote system or reapportion itself in equal population districts.

For over a century, Suffolk County has been under near-exclusive domination by the Republican party and the few insiders, who were the power brokers. They had used the

county as a personal preserve to enrich themselves, their families and their friends.

They saw this court order as an opportunity to further enlarge their power base by developing enormous patronage through their cunning manipulation. They turned what had been a frugal system of county government into a mammoth pork barrel.

willmotts
and why-nots
David J. Willmott, Editor

In the last eight years, the cost of the legislature itself has gone from under \$100,000 to over \$2 million annually. The county budget has jumped from under \$25 million to over half a billion dollars.

The legislature's enormous ability to tax at will has helped drive our real estate taxes on average homes from under \$500 to over \$2,000.

It has stripped consumers of three per cent of their spendable income by adding this percentage to the state sales tax.

It has created such an enormous long-term debt that if every project was brought to a standstill today, our children's children would still be paying off the principle and the interest.

The legislature and the County Executive are supposed to be two distinct branches of government. It was the intent they act as a check in balance to each other.

From the days of Lee Dennison and

John Klein, a Democrat and a Republican, it has been the County Executive who singlehandedly has run the county as he saw fit.

We can remember asking county legislator candidates to describe the job they were running for. Not a single candidate could give an adequate description of the job, the duties, or the powers.

Most admitted they happened to be candidates because they were active in the political parties and somebody said to them, why don't you run?

This situation is still prevalent in 1978. The legislature is a disorganized body. It has no coherent purpose or meaning. It has allowed itself and continues to allow itself to be used as a puppet.

The executive pulls the strings and the legislature reacts.

There is no separation in power even when the legislature is of a different political faith than the executive.

The inability of the legislature to define their role and their power has caused terrible waste in government and the literal squandering of your hard-earned dollars.

It is not responsive or representative of your needs because the legislators are not visible nor have they had the desire as a whole to go out into the community and find out what is on the people's minds.

For the last four or five years, the main issue for Suffolk County residents is survival.

How to financially survive with the enormous tax burden that has been placed on each and every one of our shoulders.

Candidates for the legislature persistently ignore this blatant problem and instead offer more programs to increase spending and further reduce the ability of the

average Long Island resident to continue to live here.

The legislature is incapable and unwilling to clean up its own act.

When Denis Hurley ran for election, he ran on a platform based on the single premise of the elimination of the legislature and returning this body of government to a Board of Supervisors where votes would be counted through a weighted system.

Initially, it appeared he would have trouble gaining even a second for this motion.

Because of the power brokers total insensitivity towards the taxpayers' problems in the Southwest Sewer District, legislators from this area have come to see the light and also recognize the inability of government to be responsive and responsible and therefore, have added their votes to Hurley's motion.

Hurley's proposal is for a question to be put up as a referendum on this November's ballot.

A majority vote will be needed from the county legislature to appear on the ballot. So Hurley is circulating a petition asking every resident of Suffolk County to sign requesting such a resolution appear on that ballot.

Suffolk Life, being an avid supporter of this move, has published copies of this petition in our papers. If you don't have last week's edition, write us (Ban the Legislature, Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977), and we'll send you a copy so you can have friends, neighbors, and business associates sign it and do your part to return your government to the grassroots.

Please take these petitions out today and return them as soon as possible, so we may present them to Legislator Hurley as ammunition to force a reluctant legislature to allow a referendum. And why not?

Let's not forget

Memorial Day, 1978, is in a state of confusion.

Some states are celebrating it Tuesday and the federal government on Monday. This is a darn shame because Memorial Day is an extremely important holiday.

It reminds all of us to remember the sacrifices our men have given since the start of this country to preserve the values and the freedoms, which only Americans enjoy.

Let us not forget, in our complacency, why men were willing to

give up their life and limbs.

The freedoms we enjoy are only in force today because they met their call and stopped through their sacrifices those who desired to transgress against us and our form of government.

Let each of us say a silent prayer and ask that these men have found the peace in the hereafter they have earned because through their efforts the world is at relative peace this year. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Handling the dredging problem

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I am a member of I.U.O.E. local 25 and am growing tired of hearing all the talk about county dredges vs. privately owned dredges.

In your editorial last week, you mentioned that since the county dredge was disbanded, the county isn't keeping up with its dredging of inlets and waterways in Eastern Long Island.

You assumed that a plan to sell the dredge to a five town E.L.I. association would help this situation.

From my point, the problem with dredging in E.L.I. is one of attaining permits for spoil areas of dredged channels. This seems ironic since our beach barrier (Fire Island) is steadily being worn away.

I propose that a private company be formed by said five towns, using union personnel to operate and maintain the dredge.

Although union dredgemen receive more pay per hour; their incentive for production is higher since they run the chance of not being re-hired for lack of production, whereas; county employees are paid a yearly salary and rarely run such a risk.

A five town association, run along these means would serve three purposes for the county.

First. It would provide a dividend for each town (to be used on more dredging and equipment) thus saving excess taxes.

Secondly; competition would be created for the sole existing dredging company in Suffolk

County, Gibson & Cushman (which would assure competitive prices)

And lastly, a five town association would provide employment in part, for many Suffolk County resident dredgemen.

Theoretically speaking, I'm sure this plan would be more complicated to apply than sounds here. BUT... Where there's a will there IS a way!

Raymond J. Guarnies
Member I.U.O.E. Local 25
Mastic

Thanks for the truth

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Thank you for telling the truth about King John & Sir Denis.

I do not think the word "Sir" befits Dennis. To me & my friends, 'Court Jester' would seem more proper because after all, that is what he really is, a little man with a big mouth full of promises.

King John must have given him some bubble gum. So now, the little man with the big mouth will not be able to open it up anymore and give out these promises.

It is too bad that we come from the same part of his Kingdom and we will have to suffer with his court awhile. (L-2F)

From,
Six Stupid Voters

SUFFOLK LIFE
NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 18 NO. 24

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North Fork
South Fork
Riverhead
Hampton West

Mastic/Moriches
Patchogue
Medford/Holbrook
Sayville
Ronkonkoma

Coram/Middle Island
Selden/Centereach
3 Village/Port Jefferson
Rocky Point

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