

The British Are Not Exempt

Jimmy Carter involved himself as President by speaking out against the many injustices by foreign governments toward their people. Carter spoke of Russia, Cuba and a number of Third World countries. Strangely, he was silent on Britain's treatment of the Irish. President Reagan last week also spoke out about communist injustices, but he, too, failed to speak up about the British treatment of the Irish in Northern Ireland.

Bobby Sands is dead. Dead of starvation, the result of a self-imposed hunger strike. Sands chose this self-punishment to bring the human injustices perpetrated by the British government on the Catholics of Northern Ireland to the attention of the world.

Sands had been charged with what in this country would be considered a minor gun violation. A handgun had been found in a car in which he and four other people were riding. It was never proven that this was his gun or that he had used it in the commission of a crime. Sands was a political activist and he and his supporters maintained he was sentenced to a 14-year prison sentence not because of the gun charge but because of his political beliefs.

Sands maintained he is a political prisoner, not a common criminal. As a political prisoner, he felt he had a right to wear his own clothes, to refuse to do common jail work and to be able to converse with his fellow

political prisoners. The British government's refusal to recognize his status as a political prisoner led to his hunger strike.

Sand's horror story is only one of thousands of instances of violation, by the British, of human rights in Northern Ireland. Many of us here in this country who are of Irish extraction have been silent too long. Most of us are a mixture of various bloods but each of us is a human being and should not tolerate human injustices whether they be against whites, blacks, Christians, Jews or atheists, whether caused by communists or by favored allies such as the British. England should get out of Ireland and allow a united Ireland to solve its own problems by majority rule.

The British are the only ones who can bring an end to the fighting in Ireland. They must be made to withdraw or at least eliminate the repressive tactics that are violating the human rights of Catholics in Northern Ireland. If the British continue to interfere and take sides with the Protestants of Northern Ireland, rebellion will continue to be a way of life, and innocent men, women and children will be needlessly slaughtered.

The United States government might do well to boycott the upcoming wedding of Prince Charles unless the official attitude of Mother England has changed.

And why not?

Instead of laying off or eliminating teachers and administrative positions as the population of a school declines, boards of education and the administrators of school districts have reduced class sizes and added courses to maintain the same size staffs. Declining enrollments should mean reduction in the school budgets.

The feeling of school boards and administration is that the educational lobby will be able to force increases in the budget on the taxpayers. They know they will blindly be able to count on those who work within the school system for support. They arrogantly know they can blackmail parents of students into supporting these budgets, no matter how ridiculous the rate may be.

Senior citizens' votes can be "nullified" by making this segment of our society feel guilty if they vote at all, or if they vote opposing increases in school budgets.

Any school budget that increases while experiencing declining enrollment should be voted down not only the first time, but on subsequent votes when it is presented. When school budgets are voted down, school boards should be made to adhere to the minimum educational requirements instead of putting the budget back up for a vote. In most cases they amount to no more than 40 percent of the overall budget. School boards should not just eliminate from their first budgets the parent-student

sensitive items such as transportation and interscholastic sports.

Where parochial schools operate on as little as 10 percent of the cost of public education and offer the same basic mandates, they also have a long history of better educating their students in the basics.

Every student is entitled to a good, basic education. As taxpayers, we should expect to provide the educational facilities to accomplish these goals. The electives and the extras that a school board chooses to provide should only be funded with the expressed permission of the taxpayers. It should be optional for the taxpayers to fund these items which are optional for the school board to choose.

We recommend voters to think very carefully before blindly supporting school budgets. You have a right to ask questions and to receive satisfactory answers. The cost of education takes up too much of our earned income and should no longer be treated as a sacred cow that must be protected at all costs.

School boards are never going to get the message from taxpayers unless you turn out in force and vote -- whether you have a student in school or not, you do have an interest in the funding of education. You pay for it. How much you pay is how much of what you do that produces position benefits which are up to you. Think, then vote. And why not?

Happy Mother's Day

This Sunday is Mother's Day. We cannot think of more deserving people to be honored than Moms. Not only Moms with little kids, but also mothers with big ones.

There is something instinctively built into a mother that never allows her to stop caring and being concerned, whether her kids be infants in arms or grandparents themselves. Mother's Day means more than going out and buying a hurried gift. It's a reminder to each of us to take time out to sit down and let Mom know unequivocally how much she has meant to us, how much she means to us and how we have appreciated her

love, care and understanding.

When a woman chooses to become a mother she accepts a lifetime responsibility, one that few women take lightly. Mothers deserve love, attention and appreciation 365 days a year. If you have been neglectful in giving her a hug, saying 'I love you,' be sure to do it this Sunday. There is nothing quite as sad as a woman, a mother forgotten on Mother's Day by the kids she sacrificed for all her life.

To all Mothers: We love you and we hope you are remembered and know you are appreciated this year.

And why not?

Think Before You Vote

Starting today, and for the next seven weeks, taxpayers and residents will vote on school budgets.

The financing of schools makes up between 60 percent and 70 percent of local real estate taxes. In addition to the funds raised by real estate, the State of New York reimburses local school districts for 40 percent to 42 percent of the cost of educating students. Students on Long Island are educated by both public schools and private - parochial schools. The cost of educating students in public schools ranges from less than \$3,000 to more than \$7,000 per student. The cost of educating students in private or

parochial schools, adhering to the same rules, regulations and mandates set down by the state, is between \$600 and \$650.

You have a right to ask why and how private school systems can educate students at 10 percent to 25 percent of what it costs public schools to accomplish the same thing. It is a question that is being asked across the state as well as the nation. To compound this difference in cost, public schools are asking the voters to increase the expenditures on public education from five percent to 20 percent this coming year -- this is in the face of declining enrollments.

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Many times I have read of your welfare criticism. I am tired of hearing myself and most mothers like myself being maligned. You are right - why should we take a job for \$3.35 an hour with a take-home pay of around \$100? With rent being at least \$300 for two bedrooms, and babysitters around \$30 a week, we are losing money by working. If the state has designated that it takes a family to subsist on an equivalent salary of \$5.05 an hour, then why haven't businesses adjusted to the higher cost of living and pay more? Wage levels are far below what is necessary to exist on. It is because people like yourself try to get rich off the backs of people who need a job.

That is only one gripe. Let us not put the blame for all these tax dollars going to mostly women and children. Come on, Mr. Willmott, what about the fathers who helped make all these children? It is unfair for the state and county to pick up the tab. Most judges after hearing a plea allow a man to contribute \$15

a week for two children. Is it because judges and politicians are men that this is allowed to happen? I think so, Mr. Willmott.

Typical of the situation is one man I know, divorced, two kids. At present he collects unemployment, works as a security guard for \$200 a week and has a business salary of around \$100. That's \$400 a week and yet he only pays \$50 a month.

If men were made to realize their first duty with their paycheck is to feed and clothe their firstborn children, it would not be so easy for them to look for another woman and dump their burden on the rest of humanity. And why not?

I will write to my assemblyman and most welfare mothers should too. The laws for child support should be changed to unburden the taxpayers.

Yours truly,
Ann Granchelli
Shirley

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With Utter Frustration

A symposium was recently called by Riverhead Supervisor Joseph Janowski and the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce to discuss the police, the courts, the district attorney's office, and law and order in general.

A resident of Wading River started the meeting by asking the police what they could do about the sale of marijuana to kids. The police responded that they were powerless, because possession of marijuana is no longer illegal—it is only an offense. They didn't consider it a big enough problem, nor did they have the manpower necessary to stop the sale.

As the meeting progressed other aspects of the law and order were discussed, including vandalism, burglaries, loitering, and public drunkenness. A representative of the District Attorney's office said times have changed; there isn't much that can be done to control any of these problems. We must change with the times and learn to accept what most residents consider offensive and, in some cases, criminal behavior.

The judges at the meeting pointed to their heavy workload, how the police prepared some of their cases quite poorly, and how the demands by the District Attorney's office for plea bargaining have resulted in people being set free.

A probation officer gave a long dissertation on the need for education and how parents were the cause of all the problems.

At the end of the meeting we were in a conversation with one of the superior officers. He brought up how powerless the police feel because of recent court rulings which subject the police to lawsuits in which they are personally held responsible for their actions on the job. He said cops are hampered today by the fear that if they exercise wrong judgment and violate in any way a perpetrator's rights, they will be sued personally, which could cause them to lose their house, savings, and their kids' college education.

His closing remark probably was the most telling and the most frustrating: "If someone does not care about his or her personal reputation, they can make a damn good living out of crime

today."

We left the meeting with a sense of utter frustration—frustration felt by most law-abiding citizens from Montauk to Queens. Are we again living in a jungle without protection? Why have we allowed our justice system to be so crippled that the meaning and purpose of laws have been rendered useless and senseless? If the police and the courts are not capable of protecting us, do we have any alternative other than to take measures necessary to defend ourselves? We can put a cop on every street corner, but if we have stripped them of their ability to function, what value are they?

As frustrated as we were after leaving this meeting, we became even more incensed when we read that a Federal Judge ruled that for every 14 prisoners that Nassau County incarcerates, they have to release 15. The alleged reason for this idiotic decision was that Nassau County's jails are overcrowded. The rights of the prisoner must be protected.

Have you ever heard of such idiotic trash before in your life? Doesn't this bleeding heart realize that it is the public that has been the victim of the prisoners' crimes? That the public has a right to be protected against the perpetrators?

The prisoners are only in prison because they have violated our rights by breaking the laws and causing injury to other human beings and they have been caught. Prisons wouldn't be anywhere near as full today if it weren't for liberal decisions such as this that have made it profitable and worthwhile for criminal elements to violate laws. Liberal bleeding heart decisions like this and the utter frustration that has been felt by law-abiding citizens will turn America into an armed camp out of pure self-defense.

We fear we are going back to the call of the wild where kill or be killed is the only system that prevails. What other choice do we have if the cops are powerless, the district attorney says we must accept the disregard for the law, judges feel they can't do their job and we are not allowed to incarcerate the law breaker. God help us.

And why not?

Rotary Anniversary

The Rotary Club of Riverhead will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on May 16, 1981, marking a half century of service above self to their community and to mankind throughout the world in the many programs of help offered by this dedicated service organization. Suffolk Life is proud to pay tribute to all Riverhead Rotarians, past and present, on this momentous occasion.

What is Rotary? Edgar A. Guest said it best with these words entitled "The Rotary Spirit":

"To smooth the way for others, to make of life the most;

To make the phrase 'our brother' mean more than idle boast;

To praise sincere endeavor, when praise will spur it on,

Withhold kind words never until the friend is gone;

This is the Rotary spirit, this is the Rotary dream,

God grant that we may near it, before we cross the stream."

Rotary is extending a hand of help wherever it may be needed. Through the years Riverhead Rotarians, as a group or in individual efforts, have been in the forefront of worthwhile community activities, supporting the

creation of the Riverhead Town Recreation Program, the Boy and Girl Scouts, a Community Fund which meets immediate, pressing financial needs when problems strike residents of the community. Rotarians were involved in the creation of Central Suffolk Hospital, and Rotarians have helped lead the efforts of that local medical institution. The list of accomplishments goes on and on.

Internationally, the Riverhead Rotary Club joins with clubs throughout the world in extending the hand of human kindness in helping to wipe out disease and hunger in nations where suffering exists. Through Rotary Foundation, Rotarians strive to bring better understanding between all people with exchange programs of both students and study teams of professional men.

Included in this week's delivery of Suffolk Life Newspapers is a special 50th Anniversary publication which gives insight into the Rotary story. We join with the many advertisers within that publication in paying tribute to the Rotary Club of Riverhead for its 50 years of service above self.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Open Letter:

To the People of Brookhaven Memorial Hospital:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my mother, Anna C. Puglisi, who died of cancer on Feb. 21, 1981.

She was a woman who always had her life in order, even with a husband, six children (all married) and 11 grandchildren. My mother still had time to ask me to tell you that the nurses at Brookhaven Hospital do care!

The nurses helped my mother heal from an operation physically and mentally, knowing she had a cancer there was no treatment for, in Brookhaven or anywhere in the world.

With a strong faith but yet the strength of reality facing her, these nurses tenderly and respectfully talked to her and cared for her so well, they helped her gain the strength she needed to be able to have her last wish come true -- to be home with her family for the remainder of her life.

I can't express what was not said, only what was; so please give the nurses a chance, my mother was a total stranger to these nurses and died with a very fond feeling for them, and them for her.

My mother asked their names be mentioned, so thank you, to the nurses at Brookhaven Hospital, especially 3 South: Cathy Golder, Debbie Boesch, Lorraine Atkinson, Gayle Cava and Barbara DeVitt, from my mother and all the family, to all the girls who were lucky enough to have been with such a fine woman, even in her time of confusion and fear she managed to touch your hearts!

With Sincere Appreciation,
Michele Borgesano

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This letter is in reference to all the discussion on the matter of Social Security increases being automatic and based on the consumer price index. It seems a lot of people, including the Newsday editor, think the elderly and disabled people who are receiving Social Security payments once a month should not receive 12 or 14 percent increases, while wage increases average around 7 to 10 percent. Those against the higher percentage increases of Social Security say the elderly and disabled do not

buy new homes and cars and such, but we still buy heating oil, food, gasoline, and some, such as I, are still paying off mortgages. Elderly persons with \$500 a month Social Security and a small company pension find things very rough. If those against our increases would only stop to look at the figures, they would see that a 7 percent increase to a worker earning \$1500 a month comes to \$105, while 14 percent of \$500 a month comes to a total of \$34. Meanwhile, the cost of food, heating oil, gas, mortgage payment, is the same to the retired elderly as the young worker.

I hope you can see that stopping the automatic cost of living raises or the lowering of the amount of such increases is not a proper or fair solution to our Social Security problem. Nor is the constant raising of the workers' taxes the answer.

I believe the answer lies within the system itself. Better management, stricter rules, weeding out of government frauds, as well as public cheats, by making it mandatory for government workers to pay into the Social Security system - I believe this alone would correct the situation.

Please don't think along the lines of those who would make it harder for the elderly to live out their lives with a little pride and dignity.

Yours truly,
A Local Citizen

Dear Mr. Hunter

In response to your letter to Commissioner Chester regarding the "I Love New York Camping," please be advised that all county facilities are limited to Suffolk County residents and their guests.

Therefore, by order of the commissioner, we will not be returning the forms since the county has its own methodology of informing residents as to the availability of facilities in county parks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Henry A. Berger
Chief Deputy Commissioner
County of Suffolk
Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.