

## Tribute To Mothers

Volumes have been written about mothers, and the strength of their love. About the sacrifices they make, the pride they have in our accomplishments, the love that's always there no matter what. It is doubtful there are any words that could adequately describe all of the wonderful things that go into the word Mother.

Our mailbox contained a letter this week that offers an example of a mother's love. With Mother's Day approaching, Mrs. R. Roessler of Bay Shore penned a tribute, not to herself, but to her children. We'd like to share with you this "Open Letter to My Kids on Mother's Day":

"Life was not easy when you were growing up, yet you would even wear a grin when hard knocks hit you on

the chin.

"And there was so little time for fun because childhood quickly passes by. But I'm glad we stopped to smell the flowers and see the blueness of the sky.

"None of you kids got into trouble, yet all were a little on the wild. But I never had to practice spare the rod and spoil the child.

"All your faults were different and some I'll never understand. But thanks kids for putting up with mine. For this alone I think you're mighty grand."

Mrs. Roessler offered a wish to her children that we would like to express to mothers everywhere: "Hugs and kisses till you say 'Ouch.'"

And why not?

## Energy And Safety Too

The long bitter battle over the fate of the Shoreham nuclear power plant has taken its toll in a number of ways, but something good may yet come out of the experience. The peoples' resistance to the arrogant ways of its utility company in trying to push a controversial plant down their throats, pushing aside safety issues, has not gone unnoticed. Their determination to fight to the end despite dire threats of brownouts and blackouts, has brought an awakening in the minds of some, who have come forth with new proposals.

Stalemated in efforts to put the Shoreham mistake on line, LILCO officials tried a new scheme. They proposed the construction of three oil-fired gas turbines in North Babylon as a means of meeting peak energy demands. But again, LILCO did not concern itself with community concerns. They picked a company facility which is located in a developed area as the site for the new

generators. A storm of opposition arose, and Babylon Town officials rejected the proposal. One might even suspect the proposal was designed to fail, so LILCO could blame the failure on the people.

Was there a better way? Not according to LILCO. The North Babylon location was best suited for the proposal, company officials declared.

However, the rejection of that plan has given birth to another proposal which, at first glance, includes the common sense the LILCO plan lacked. A private company, Long Lake Energy Corporation, has come forth with a proposal that would make use of the very same turbines ordered by LILCO, but would place them in a different location, one that seems to make a lot of sense.

The president of Long Lake is not new to Long Island's energy picture, nor to the Shoreham ordeal. Mat-

thew C. Cordaro was, in fact, a senior vice-president at LILCO until recently, in charge of operations. More specifically, he was very much involved in the Shoreham struggle.

Long Lake proposes to put the three turbines, which cost approximately \$20 million each, at the Northville tank farm in Riverhead. Fuel for the turbines would come from the tank farm. That fuel is brought in by barge, eliminating the problems of traffic encountered at North Babylon. The turbines, which would be contained in 50-foot high buildings, would do no more harm to the esthetic quality of that area than the large tanks already do. According to Cordaro, improvement of a five-mile stretch of transmission lines, which would require a heavier gauge wire, would link the turbines to the Riverhead Sub-Station from which the electricity generated would be put into the system. LILCO would have to agree to purchase the energy.

The turbines, capable of producing 238-megawatts of electricity, would be used in peak demand time to offset the heavy loads during hot summer days. Beyond the immediate future, Long Lake's long-range plans envision co-generation facilities at Northville and at four other locations on Long Island, which would be capable of producing another 503 megawatts of electricity. That capacity, plus the 238-megawatts of the peak time turbines, would be just shy of the total capacity which Shoreham could generate. More dependably and without the threat of a forced evacuation.

An interesting benefit of co-generation, which makes use of waste heat to produce steam to drive turbines, is that excess steam could be used to enhance agricultural opportunities, such as greenhouses.

Is the Long Lake proposal an answer to our energy needs? It's too early to tell. All environmental factors would need to be carefully studied before a final decision can be made. But at the outset it certainly seems to contain a lot more common sense than we've seen offered by LILCO.

The lessons of Shoreham have not been lost on Long Lake, and certainly not on Cordaro. Thus the Long Lake people have been making the rounds to discuss their proposal with public officials, environmentalists and others in the community. That makes sense. Problems that might be raised later could be resolved as a compromise at the beginning with that kind of communication.

Brookhaven Town officials are also taking a good hard look at the environmental impact statement from the proposed North Babylon project, with an eye toward working cooperatively with LILCO, or perhaps Long Lake, to fast track possible turbine siting at the Shoreham facility. There's a lot of common sense in that as well. Turbines at Shoreham could utilize transmission lines already in place there, and could offset tax losses to the local government and school district. The Northville project, Cordaro predicts, would produce between \$4 and \$6 million in tax revenues a year.

LILCO has long tried to portray Suffolk officials and residents as people who want to have their cake and eat it too. They want the energy but not the plant. However, Brookhaven Town's efforts to study the turbine project even before it is proposed, and the initial reaction the Long Lake proposal has received in the Riverhead area, is firm proof that a good proposal will get a good response. That is a lesson that LILCO, unfortunately, has not yet learned.

The prospect of siting turbines at Shoreham, or the future of the Long Lake project, depends on LILCO. If they don't proceed in a cooperative fashion on either or both, those projects will go nowhere.

A Long Island Power Authority takeover of LILCO would resolve that possibility. With much talk about a possible state-LILCO settlement in the air, the powers-to-be involved in that effort had better make sure any agreement eliminates veto power by LILCO over any project that would give us energy, and our safety too.

And why not?

## Letter to the Editor

### Legacy of an Adopted Child

Once there were two women who never knew each other

One you do not remember, the other you call mother

Two different lives shaped to make your one

One became a guiding star, the other became your sun

The first gave you life and the second taught you to live in it

The first gave you a need for love and the second was there to give it

One gave you a nationality, the other gave you a name

One gave you the seed of talent, the other gave you an aim

One gave you emotions, the other calmed your fears

One saw your first sweet smile, the other dried your tears

One gave you up.. it was all she could do

The other prayed for a child and God led her straight to you

And now you ask me, through your fears

The age old questions, unanswered through the years

Heredity or environment.. which are you the product of..

neither my darling.. neither  
Just two different kinds of love,  
Author unknown

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## Wheeling And Dealing

Throughout the Shoreham fiasco, it has become very apparent that LILCO has friends in high places. With recent headlines proclaiming that a "deal" had been reached between the state and the utility, one that would kill the plant but keep LILCO intact, it is clear that same condition holds true.

The deal was scheduled to be aired at a special meeting of Long Island state officials, Vincent Tese, the chief negotiator for Governor Mario Cuomo, and LILCO officials on Monday. But that meeting began to fall apart when questions starting flowing. Why just Republican lawmakers? Were they being set up by the governor? Is the deal little more than a bailout of the utility? Would the Republicans reject such a bailout? Would Cuomo then go to the people and proclaim that he had the closing of Shoreham in his grasp, but the Republicans would not cooperate? Are we playing politics here?

Sunday, Cuomo said Tese would not attend Monday's meeting. That LILCO had to sell the deal to the Republican lawmakers. It became obvious that the Monday meeting was part of a LILCO plan to sweet talk state lawmakers, bypassing the Long Island Power Authority which is involved in a proxy fight as part of its takeover efforts.

From the very beginning of the secret state negotiations with LILCO, serious questions have been raised, Tese, and the other two governor's men, William Mack, named by Cuomo to head the LIPA board at a salary of \$62,570 a year, and Richard Kessel, executive director of the state's Consumer Protection Board, are also members of the LIPA board, put there by the governor. While LIPA was compiling information to determine if a takeover was more beneficial for the ratepayers, the governor's men were

sitting down with LILCO. At one point, they used LIPA consultants in those discussions without clearing such action first with the LIPA board.

Tese has made his views about a takeover quite clear. He adamantly opposes such action. With that view, having Tese sitting on the LILPA board, privy to sensitive information, and sitting down in secret negotiations with LILCO, the prime beneficiary appears to be LILCO. They not only have a friend in a high place, but an important sensitive one as well.

If a "deal" has really been reached, why wasn't LIPA briefed on the details? Tese promised LIPA would be briefed before any information was released. He broke that promise. Why? If he broke that promise, can we really trust his word on any deal he has been involved in?

Earlier in the secret negotiation process there were demands to have someone other than the governor's men involved in those talks. Mack promised to have Irving Like, Babylon attorney and long-time Shoreham foe, sit in on the discussions. That never happened. Why? Was LILCO calling the shots on this too?

The way word about Monday's special meeting came down is mighty interesting. It was arranged by the Nassau Republican leader, who spread the word. Why? The Nassau Republican delegation has been anything but strong in its opposition to Shoreham. More friends? In high places?

Enough! It's time to take LILCO out of the driver's seat, and time to put more people in this process. LIPA is involved in a proxy fight as its initial effort in a takeover attempt. Is the deal meeting an attempt to hurt LIPA's efforts by putting attention, but not answers, on a

"deal?" Let the LIPA process continue. Tese, Mack and Kessel should be removed from the LIPA board. Let them continue to serve the governor, but keep them out of the high LIPA place that threatens to serve as a funnel of information back to LILCO.

While the governor and his men stall the LIPA effort with secret negotiations, LILCO's friends in high places on the national scene continue

to push to license Shoreham. The fanatical effort to help bailout LILCO with a deal may be a major cause of permitting the plant to go on line. And the governor will bear the responsibility if that happens.

It's time to take Tese, Mack and Kessel, and the sleazy game of politics that is being played, out of LIPA's way and let the process proceed.

And why not?

## Are We Serious About Affordable Housing?

We are tired of politicians complaining about the lack of affordable housing, yet refusing to use common sense to solve the problem. Their solution is for the government to enter the housing business, and that's just plain ridiculous.

The solution is not throwing taxpayers' money at the problem. The solution is rezoning a proper amount of land, where water and sewage is available, into high density acreage. If builders could establish four to sixteen units per acre, they could build affordable housing.

If government really wants to create the affordable housing that is needed, they can designate these areas, fast track the applications,

eliminate the bureaucratic red tape that adds so substantially to the cost. A deal could be cut with developers to build this housing at cost if the municipalities would trade off fast tracking and bureaucratic elimination on more profitable subdivisions within the community on which the builders could make a profit.

The taxpayers don't have to lay out a dime upfront. High density housing could be built in areas that would not be affected environmentally. Residents would have homes that they can afford. It doesn't require money, just common sense and cooperation.

Isn't it time we stopped talking and started doing?

And why not?

## Let's Clean Up Our Mess

On a recent trip to Hawaii we noted an almost complete absence of litter. On our way home from the airport, driving on Sunrise Highway, we could not help but note the horrendous mess litter has caused along our highways. Long Island may not be as beautiful as Hawaii, but it sure doesn't have to be as ugly as we have made it.

We questioned a couple of locals in Hawaii as to why there was an absence of litter there. An islander said it is part of the Aloha spirit, a reverence for the land and the sea. Then he chuckled and said, "it might also be our law." When anyone is caught littering, throwing away so much as a cigarette butt, they are arrested. Their station in life makes no difference, be they peasant or professional, the sentence is the same: four hours cleaning up the highway for the first offense, the sentence doubles for each subsequent violation. You can't pay a fine

nor can you hire someone to work off your penalty. You must do it yourself. On any given day you see rich and poor alike walking the highways, carrying bags, picking up every scrap of paper and rubbish.

Wouldn't it make sense to do the same here on Long Island? We have laws that prohibit litter. However, they are not enforced and when they are, people escape with a small fine. Wouldn't it make more sense to actively enforce the law and impose time cleaning up as the punishment? We believe our justices and district courts have it in their power to impose such penalties.

Are there any judges out there as concerned about litter and as offended about it as we are who are willing to set an example? If you don't like the litter any better than we do, why not write to your local court and ask the judges to impose this kind of sentence?

And why not?

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# LILCO bail-out pure and simple

From the jaws of victory it appears that Governor Cuomo's men are selling out Long Islanders. Although the Long Island Power Authority is on the verge of taking over the Long Island Lighting Company, at the twelfth hour, LILCO and the governor's representatives announced there is an "agreement" on Shoreham.

We don't believe, from information available at this time, the agreement reached will satisfy Long Islanders or gives them any assurance that Shoreham will be closed. Under the terms of the agreement, according to sources, rates will only be capped at 5% for three years. After that, they will be raised on demand by whatever percentage LILCO can argue is prudent.

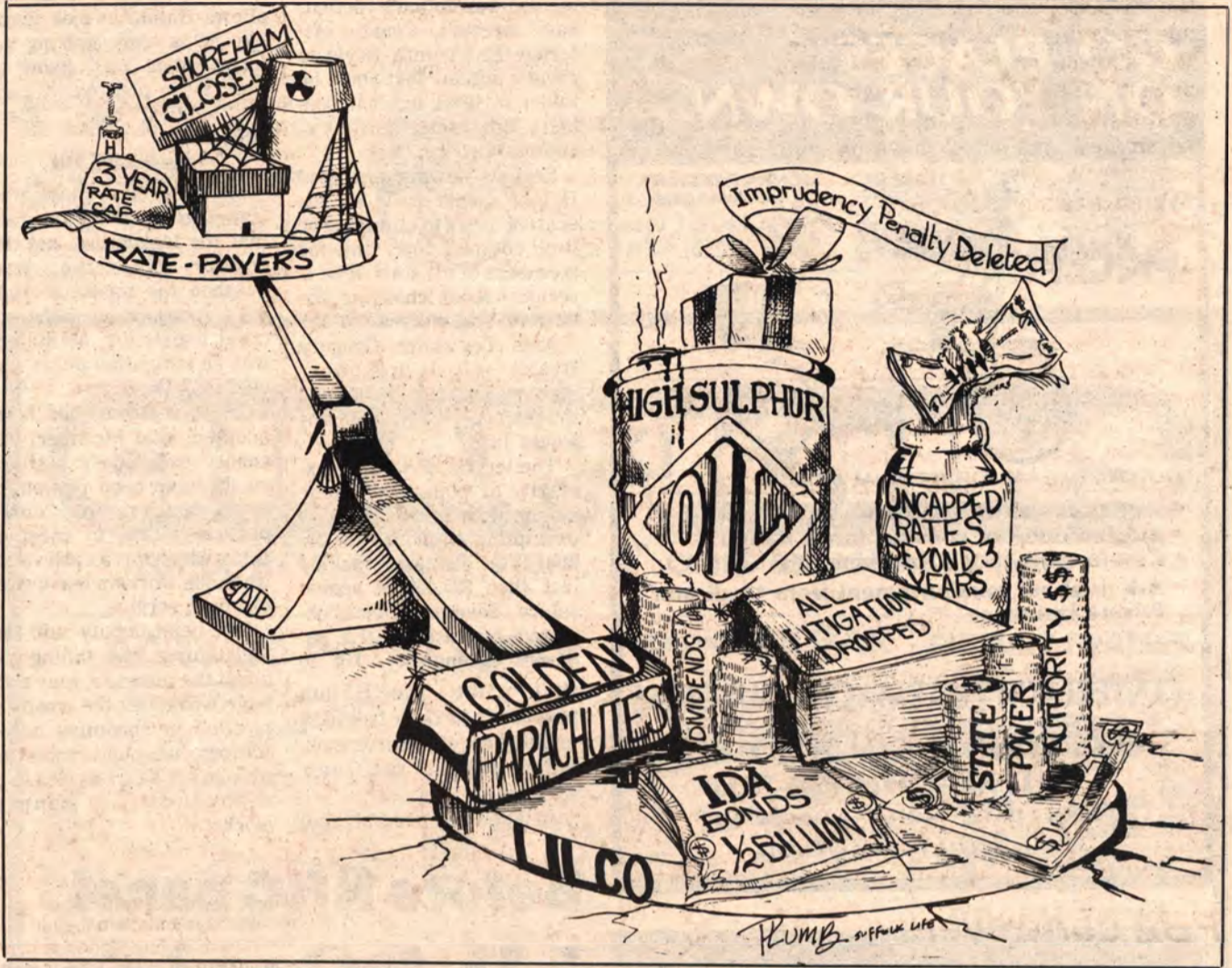
At the end of ten years, the cost of Shoreham's construction and possible decommissioning will again be worked into the rate base. What that means is that the first ten years of rate increases are designed only to bolster LILCO's financial position, with the full impact of the Shoreham costs coming after LILCO gets its bailout money. There is no guarantee LILCO will cease its efforts to

pursue licensing the Shoreham nuclear power plant while negotiations on the contracts for L.I.P.A. to take over Shoreham continue. If LILCO receives the license, what will stop LILCO from operating the plant at full power and discontinuing the talks on turning over the plant to the state.

LILCO will be given \$500,000,000 of the state's share of industrial revenue bonds, which would wipe out Suffolk County's IDA funds to help relocation and expansion of other businesses. LILCO will be allowed to burn high sulphur fuel, which costs less but pollutes more. The rules of the D.E.C. will be relaxed and LILCO will be allowed to operate outside of the law and beyond environmental control.

LILCO will be granted credits that will allow it to escape paying any taxes to the state or federal government for decades. The list goes on and on, but probably one of the most reprehensible allowances conceded by the state is the continuation of Golden Parachutes for the management who developed this island-wide debacle.

The negotiated settlement as outlined, as of the writing of this editorial on Friday, May 13, is a pure and simple



bailout of the management of LILCO and the company which has wasted over \$5 billion dollars of Long Island's resources and totally disregarded, in its actions, the health and safety of our residents. From where we stand, it's a complete sellout and a reward. Long Islanders have been had. Governor Cuomo, ac-

ording to published reports, has voiced strong comments against advocates of public power, claiming they are looking for "imperfections" in the Cuomo deal. It's hard to take the Governor serious when he talks like that. Surely he, more than everyone else, knows that information about the details of his deal have been totally lacking. He and his men leak bits and pieces as they see fit. For some strange reason known only to them, they arrange for LILCO to brief Long Island Republican lawmakers, leaving the Democrats out in the

cold. Although LIPA is slated to takeover the Shoreham plant according to the terms of the deal, LIPA officials are not given any details. While LIPA is involved in a proxy fight in a preliminary takeover effort, three LIPA officials, all Governor's men, are sitting behind closed doors with LILCO, concocting a settlement scenario that benefits LILCO more than anyone else, right down to the preservation of the Golden Parachutes, timing their efforts to impede, if not destroy, the proxy fight and takeover efforts. Rather than attack

those who have voiced legitimate concerns, the Governor should put all the facts on the table, let everyone see all the details. If the deal is good, why hide all the facts, imperfections, and giveaways as the Governor and his men have been doing?

Our governor said, "trust me." We did. Unless he steps in and prevents his henchmen from putting our futures in hock to benefit an arrogant utility, we will have misplaced our trust, and we should let him know we don't like it one little bit. And why not?

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SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS

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# Brilliant negotiator? Treacherous traitor?

On Friday, May 20, as I sit here writing this editorial, knowing not whether Mario Cuomo is a brilliant negotiator or a treacherous traitor, I have a sickening feeling the latter is the case. Whichever, we will know within a short period of time.

In 1983, after two years of silence, Mario Cuomo entered the Shoreham foray by appointing a blue ribbon panel which became known as the Cuomo Commission.

I was Suffolk County's representative on this panel. At the first meeting, Marge Harrison, the Nassau representative appointed by Cuomo and an anti-Shoreham activist, and I met at the end of the day. We went over the other delegates to try to ascertain their positions. It appeared to us that it was a stacked deck. Chairman John Marburger of the State University at Stony Brook, the governor's appointee, had an extensive nuclear background and close ties to the Brookhaven National Lab and the Long Island Lighting Company. Almost all of the other members of the commission appeared to be pro-nuclear.

After several months of day-long hearings and huge volumes of research material to read and digest, the panel finally issued a report highly critical of Shoreham. The conclusion outlined the risk the plant posed to the health and the safety of Long Island residents. The majority of the commission members, despite initial pro-nuclear views, had changed their minds after hearing the facts first hand.

Cuomo then publicly stepped up his opposition to the opening of Shoreham. Many of us questioned why he did not take the most direct and positive approach and appoint a commissioner as chairman of the Public Service Commission who would, under his direction, stop granting LILCO Construction While In Progress (CWIP) funds, costs imposed upon ratepayers toward the construction price of the plant. The public service commissions of other states refused to impose such costs upon the ratepayers under the principle that plants not used or useable should not be a burden upon the people until they are producing electricity. The New York PSC, under the leadership of Chairman Paul Gioia, was more concerned about the utility than the people and continued to burden ratepayers with costs not allowed by law.

Paul Gioia was a holdover appointee under Cuomo and could have been dismissed at anytime by the governor. But the governor did not act, Gioia stayed and LILCO continued to receive not only CWIP funds, but substantial increases in rates. Without these gifts from Gioia, LILCO would have been under intense financial pressure to end the Shoreham battle years ago.

It became apparent to many of us midway through the Shoreham hear-

ings, when the then president of LILCO made the statement that "Shoreham was a mistake from the beginning, but they had to keep going in order to prove their prior expenditures were prudent," that a deal could have been made to put an end to Shoreham once and for all by buying the plant from LILCO.

LILCO was in rough financial shape at this point. They would have been amenable to almost any kind of reasonable deal that allowed them to save face and recover financially. Cuomo did not offer a deal.

In 1986, two years after the Shoreham report had been issued, Gioia still was chairman of the Public Service Commission. LILCO was still getting CWIP funds and rate increases. A grassroots movement was started by Murray Barbash and a number of others, including your editor and managing editor, to try to find a resolution and an end to this ongoing scenario.

We commissioned an economic report to determine if it was financially feasible for the public to take over the Long Island Lighting Company. The report came back that it was possible for the public to take over the company, close Shoreham and offer electrical rates for less than LILCO was charging or would charge in the future. We were encouraged by this report. Out of our own pockets, we funded a second report. Using even more conservative methodology, the second report came back favorable.

With the help of Stephen Liss, we had legislation introduced that created a non-political Long Island Power Authority. The governor's reception was lukewarm. His staff emasculated the original bill and gave control of the LIPA board to the governor through January, 1991. We insisted that non-political rules be put into place, including a board of directors elected at large, with no political bearing, starting in 1991. The bill passed the legislature and was signed into law mid-year, 1986.

Proponents encouraged the governor to name his candidates for the board as soon as possible, so even though they would not be official members until January 15, 1987, the effective date of the legislation, they could get a running start. We felt they could meet and do the groundwork that is so time consuming in any new organization. Time was of the essence, as LILCO was seeking a license at full speed, with the help of the feds.

The governor procrastinated right up until after the first of January in naming his nominees. A valuable six months had been lost. The board he appointed was stacked with people loyal and beholden to him, giving him control of the board. Public power advocates were appointed to the board for appearance sake. One of the candidates he appointed was Economic and Development Direc-

tor for the State, Vincent Tese. Although Tese was a member of the Long Island Power Authority which, by law, is directed to take over the company if LIPA could provide electricity more reasonably than LILCO, Tese was involved in secret negotiations, at the governor's order, to negotiate a settlement rather than a takeover of the company. During the LIPA discussion about a price to offer for LILCO stocks, Tese, in closed session, told LIPA board members he did not want to make any offer. "Let LILCO go bankrupt. It's garbage. Not worth anything," he declared.

Almost a year passed between the creation of the Long Island Power Authority and finalization of an in-depth financial study conducted by Lazare. The report came back and indicated emphatically that the Long Island Power Authority could take over the company, through either a friendly acquisition or a condemnation of assets, and produce electricity at more reasonable rates than LILCO could, either now or in the future. This was what we had been waiting for. This was what we thought the governor had been waiting for. But, the governor's representative, Tese, continued to negotiate not to take over, but to settle the Shoreham dispute by buying the Shoreham nuclear power plant.

LIPA board members were not kept informed about the details or what was being offered. They still haven't been briefed on the details. The governor stonewalled everyone including Paul Harenberg, a Democratic assemblyman who had been instrumental in the creation of LIPA and the battle to end the Shoreham controversy.

The LIPA board announced a proxy fight would commence, and committed over \$1 million in an effort to seat LIPA candidates on the LILCO board of directors.

LIPA also began efforts for a friendly takeover of the utility. LIPA submitted an offer to buy LILCO stocks at the market value of the shares the day before the offering. Within a few days they raised their bid 25 percent to \$10 per share. They then raised the bid, the week prior to the stockholders meeting, to \$12 per share, almost a third more than the stock had been selling for. Investors were interested. It appears that if \$12 didn't do the deal, \$14 would, and Long Island ratepayers would still be able to buy electricity for less than if LILCO continued to run the company.

The governor's men on the board fought offering \$14 a share. If this was not enough, the governor announced just a few days prior to the board meeting that a negotiated settlement was imminent. Cuomo became a Judas overnight. He told Long Island: Buy my deal without knowing what the deal is. "What are the facts?" we asked the governor.

The governor answered, "I have 100 questions. I expect answers to these questions by midnight, Friday, May 13th." We expected those questions, and answers, to be released so that the public could see what kind of deal the governor was making for them. Instead of fact and answers to good questions, we have been leaked bits and pieces that indicate the deal in the making is the most preposterous giveaway in the history of business and government. It's an outlandish scandal.

LILCO would not only be paid for the plant, but be paid an enormous profit. Rates would be able to be increased substantially higher than what they would have been under a LIPA takeover. The Long Island Lighting Company, for their perseverance in trying to endanger the people of Long Island, will receive huge bonuses at the taxpayers' expense, bonuses that include long term, low interest financing, tax abatements, penalty forgiveness, legal suits dropped, and a whole range of other giveaways.

Rate increases would be limited to five percent for three years only, with no guarantees beyond that. The only guarantee we see in the limited details of the deal made public thus far are guarantees that keep LILCO healthy at the expense of the ratepayers.

We find it hard to fathom that our governor is this stupid. We always considered him brilliant and shrewd. We didn't want to believe the worst about Cohalan, but he betrayed us. Will the governor do the same?

In recent comments, the governor has expressed anger towards those who would dare to oppose his deal. He has called the LIPA activity a joke. And yet he has still refused to present the public with the full details and future impact of his deal with LILCO. He and his men have been playing with the people. They leak out a detail--such as giving LILCO permission to burn high sulfur oil and the continuance of Golden Parachutes-- and then take them out of the deal when the opposition mounts.

Governor, stop playing games. If you have a deal, release the details. All the facts, the answers to your 100 questions, and many more that we and others have. Stop asking us to sign a blank check that would bankrupt our future. Lay the facts on the table and let's see what your deal is all about. Stop your selective briefings and start communicating.

The most important thing is that Shoreham must close. It should never be permitted to operate, endangering the health and welfare of our Long Island residents. Governor, if your deal falls through, and the LIPA takeover fails, it's your fault. If Shoreham opens because of your actions, it's your fault. It's time to put rhetoric aside and face the truth. And why not?