

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Bailing Out New York City

New York City is in the mess it is today because it has refused to realistically approach the problems that have confronted it.

Its stock answer has been to spend more money to create solutions. This spending has brought it to the verge of bankruptcy.

Still its leadership persists in ignoring what has to be done and instead just looks to other avenues for funds.

Last week when President Ford announced he would do nothing to bail the city to stop default, a human cry went up from our liberal legislators of his inhumanity.

We have found ourselves of late more and more in disagreement with what Ford has done. But his action on the city, we feel, is right.

As we often editorialize, there is no Santa Claus. You can borrow from tomorrow to pay for

today but tomorrow will catch up with you.

This country, from our school boards all the way to the federal government, has been on a spending rampage since the 40's that has created an unbearable tax burden through both the reduction of spendable income and inflation.

The time has come to face reality, it can't go on. New York is at this point now.

To bail out New York City would only postpone the inevitable crash. The longer we wait, the more it is going to hurt.

Right here in Suffolk we have been hurt by the procrastination to try and keep New York alive.

Good sound bonds are not about to be sold and the few that will are double digit interest. This would not have happened if the city had been allowed to go bankrupt when it first became

obvious that there was no way of keeping it afloat.

If New York City is allowed to go under it will be able to again start fresh.

While reorganizing its financing and devising a system to pay back its indebtedness, it will be forced to eliminate any projects and programs it cannot afford.

The city will be in a position to demand true producers for those workers who survive.

Moreover, the bankruptcy of New York City will serve as an example and warning to every municipality that the borrowing well can run dry.

These are the cold, hard facts that each of us who are trying to maintain a family must face.

Should our government be exempted from what we are subject to? And why not?

Election Day, Tuesday, November 4th

This election is on the eve of the 200th anniversary of the founding of our country.

Its original citizens gave up their lives, were maimed and endured inhuman hardships to give each of us an opportunity to choose the people we wanted to govern us.

We do this by casting our vote on Election

Day. In our apathy some disenfranchised themselves by not voting.

In doing so they really should give up another right, the right to complain when our government officials don't act the way they feel they should.

We are thankful to our forefathers who know

what life was like under dictators and non-elected, non-responsive government.

It is a fantastic system of government that we live under; but a democracy only works if you take part in it.

Don't let yourself be disenfranchised - vote on November 4th. And why not?

Editorial Endorsement Recap

Chief Judge Surrogate Court
Ernest Signorelli
Republican - Conservative

Signorelli has the human element in his favor and has promised to revamp the court to facilitate the settlement of estates.

County Executive
Joseph Clemente
Democrat

He lives the middle-class life and knows its frustrations. He is pledged to controlling expenses and taxes and will actively work to find industry and jobs.

First Legislative District
Joyce Burland
Democrat

She would be the first real representative district has ever had. Will work harder, is bright and knowledgeable.

Second Legislative District
John Donohue
Democrat

He's people-oriented, has experience, offers all people from Southamptn to Mastic true representation.

Third Legislative District
John Foley
Democrat

Best candidate of the year. Statesman. He is respected by all people and will represent all the people.

Fourth Legislative District
Floyd Linton
Democrat

He has worked hard for district, is people-oriented. Intelligent, has leadership potential.

Fifth Legislative District
Ferdinand Giese
Independent

Outstanding civic leader. Business-oriented. Knows his district. Will be independent and uncorruptable.

Eighth Legislative District
John Wehrenberg
Republican-Conservative

He has worked hard in the past term of office to be good legislator. Learns from his mistakes.

Ninth Legislative District
Nancy Manfredonia
Democrat

Leader in environmental movement. Heavy civic involvement, intelligent, responsive to people's needs.

Supervisors
Shelter Island
Tom Jernick
Republican

Has done what residents wanted. Leader of Supervisors' Association.

East Hampton
Eugene Haas
Republican-Conservative

He knows every inch of East Hampton. Strong on planning. Hopefully, he will be independent.

Southampton
Martin Lang
Republican

Motivator of people. Ability to get things done. Plans for solving Southampton's problems.

Riverhead
Allen Smith
Democrat

Outstanding capabilities. Ability to cope with

sophisticated problems. Recognizes town's weaknesses and has plans for improvements.

Brookhaven
John Randolph
Democrat


Tireless, civic leader, who will be responsive to people. Offers palatable alternatives to boss control.

Islip
Peter Cohalan
Republican

Outstanding administrator. Bright and articulate. Runs best town in New York State.

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A Powerful Leader Needed

One of the most disheartening revelations to come to light during the past campaign was the lack of direction of the Suffolk County Legislature.

Under the old composition of the board, the legislature acted more as a puppet for John Klein than a forceful, decision-making body. Incumbent legislators charged that the legislature had no programs of its own--it was there only to rubber stamp the dictates of the County Executive's office.

It was particularly discouraging to have the Democrat minority admit they were void of leadership and were constantly pushed into positions of compromise in order to get anything at all done.

Now, the voters have spoken their peace and have restored the system of checks and balances to our County government. We now have a two party system of government. The County Executive's office is Republican, and the legislature is Democratic.

With this victory, comes the opportunity to elect from their ranks the Presiding Officer. The

Democrats, in order to be effective, will need to choose a man of foresight, wisdom and courage as their leader. A man who will not allow himself to become a patsy for Klein. A man who will be able to demand programs that are people-oriented, designed to solve the problems of the middle class.

The one man on the County board we felt had leadership qualities, Ira Nydick, chose not to run, and therefore will not be available for this position. Political pros are leaning strongly towards Marty Feldman, the veteran legislator who sought the nod for County Executive earlier this year, but was beaten in caucus. He knows the inner workings of the legislature and has a dynamic personality. He might be hindered though by politics; there is residual bitterness over his quest for the nomination.

The Democrats should investigate freshman legislator John Foley of Patchogue. He does not come to the job green. He has experience as a legislator, having served as a councilman in Brookhaven for several years. He is thoughtful, resourceful, and has, in the past, earned the

respect of people on both the political left and right. Foley would be a powerful leader and would have no problem standing up to Klein.

We believe the Legislature would become a body of importance under Foley's guidance. He has the leadership qualities and the majority he needs. And why not?

Are Legislative Aides Necessary?

The County Legislature created the job of legislative aides ostensibly to assist the legislators in doing research and handling everyday matters. These aides are paid more than the legislators themselves, with the average salary rung up at over \$19,000.

Shockingly, both Democrat and Republican incumbent legislators admitted they did not use the services these people were hired to provide. Some even charged they were "no show" jobs, a luxury the residents of Suffolk County cannot afford.

The County, prior to the Legislature's birth in 1971, had all its business conducted by the Board of Supervisors, then ten part-time jobs. In 1971, these part-time positions were increased to 18, and according to the incumbents, they became full time jobs.

The County's population, however, has not doubled during this period. There is no reason why its legislators, if they are doing their work properly, cannot perform their functions without aides.

We recommend that as a first order of business the new County Legislature eliminate the position of aides and save the already overburdened taxpayers this cost. And why not?

Why New York City Can't Survive

The reason New York City can't survive in its present condition is the system is set up to lose--straight across the board. The tragedy is, everyone loses. The municipal employee who can't live on his take home pay loses. The City, which pays more than twice what it should for its employees loses. And, of course, the taxpayer who's buying the municipal services loses, too.

Consider this: there are 8,736 hours in a year, 168 hours in a week. A normal work week is 40 hours, and if we work 52 weeks we have spent 2,080 hours during the year employed. This comes out to 23.9 per cent of our time. Under normal conditions, we receive a week's vacation and about another week off for holidays or sick time.

Municipal employees don't work a normal work year. They average 1,250 hours per year. We figure only 14.3 per cent of their time is spent working, and it cuts basic overall productivity by 41.2 per cent. This basic productivity must be made up by having additional employees on the same cost basis. Therefore, the cost to the City for these services is almost doubled.

To make this more understandable, let's look at it in terms of dollars. The city creates a position of pot hole examiner. The position calls for full-time employment at an annual salary of \$10,400 per year, or \$200 per week. This works out to \$5.00 per hour based on a 40 hour week. To this base salary, we add a fringe benefit package reported to cost the city 42 per cent. These fringe costs are for Social Security, 20 year retirement, pensions, health plans, compensation and disability insurance, uniform allowances, etc. This pushes the cost to the City up from \$5.00 per hour to \$7.10 per hour. But, the employee does not receive one extra cent to live on.

This is not where the cost factor ends. You must take into account non-worked, paid time. If the job calls for 2,080 hours of labor to fulfill its needs, a normal work year, and the pot hole examiner is required by contract to work 1,250 hours, the time must be filled by another person at the same salary and benefits. This causes the cost of a \$10,400 job to skyrocket to \$20,661. The hourly cost jumps from \$5.00 to \$9.66 per hour.

The doubling of cost and halving of production has contributed heavily to the City's present dilemma. It happened because gutless New York City leaders found it easier to give in to union negotiators than to stand up and fight for a responsible solution. Union negotiators, in order to keep their jobs, had to show union members results.

Between the two, we end up with shorter work schedules which, on paper, initially do not appear to cost money, but are forcing the city into a position of default.


A partial answer to the City's situation would be to have its labor force work a normal work year, just as the rest of the world does. Of course, the labor unions will not hear of this. They are still looking to the Federal government or some other Santa Claus to bail them out. More loans will only complicate the basic problem and prolong the agony.

When the city goes bankrupt, it will be forced to look realistically at its management practices. Its employees will have to work up to true productivity standards.

When this happens and fresh funding becomes available, the City will once more be able to build itself to prominence. But until this happens, all the loans in the world will not bail out a city that is operating at half productivity. And why not?

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Canada Takes Care Of Its Taxpayers

The Canadian government has levied an income tax like that of the United States on its citizens, but the taxing system is based on income brackets. The more money you earn, the higher your percentage of taxation.

In its wisdom, the Canadian government has taken into consideration the impact of inflation. As the proportion of spendable income goes down, a system of indexation is applied. Taxpayers are not forced into a higher tax bracket just because of inflation. It leaves spendable income intact.

In the United States, inflation is constantly pushing its citizens into higher and higher tax brackets, thus reducing the amount and value of their spendable income. This has caused enormous hardships for the middle class in particular. It is the reason most of us are finding it nearly impossible to cover even normal expenses.

We read an article last year which concluded that this Canadian system of taxation has been healthy for both the taxpayer and the government because it had restored incentive which resulted in increased productivity.

Our government should consider a similar system before the great middle class, out of desperation, joins hands with the welfare state. And why not?

We Need Bicameral Legislature

A bicameral legislature is a dual body of government similar to the U.S. Congress and Senate. Senate members represent specific geographical areas while the Congress represents equal population districts.

This composite government was created through the wisdom of our founding fathers. The Senate's initial purpose was to give small states equal leverage with more heavily populated states. The Congress balanced this by being composed of representatives from equal population districts from all areas of the country, regardless of the size of the state. It provided a balance between the land-rich states and the people-rich states.

The system has worked well. Our County Legislature could operate in this way, but operates only under a system of equal population districts. This system has not worked well. Most people do not know who their legislator is, and the legislators themselves fail to identify with the needs of their districts.

Before the present Legislature was created, the representatives were the Supervisors of the ten towns of Suffolk. Supervisors are full-time employees and are readily accessible to the public. As a result, people had input into the County government.

The court ruled that it was unfair for an East End supervisor, whose town had a small population to have a vote with the same weight as a supervisor from a West End town, with many times the population. A reapportionment of the county board of supervisors into a more fair system of representation was ordered. It was decided that the present system of legislators be established. They could have kept the Board of Supervisors and allocated a weighted vote to each supervisor according to town population, but this was rejected. They could have developed a bicameral legislature, but at the time it was found to be unworkable.

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The present system of representation has proved itself to be unresponsive. The East End has complained ever since the Legislature's creation they are denied an effective voice in county government. West End towns such as Islip do not feel they are getting a fair shake either.

The Suffolk County Supervisors' Association has proposed and will promote a bicameral form of government for Suffolk. It would be composed of representatives of equal population districts and a separate body made up of the supervisors of the county's ten towns.

Initially, we support this concept as it will meet the court's wishes while at the same time, it will give the people better representation and input into the County government. We encourage all our readers to watch for further development of the proposal. And why not?

The Big Lie

John Klein, in his bid for re-election, has perpetuated the big lie. He repeated time and time again that county taxes had been held down. He deliberately referred only to real estate taxes. These taxes were held down only because of the enormous sales taxes that the county gleaned from every resident.

In total this year, the sales tax in Suffolk will amount to over \$188 million. This works out to cost you, the average resident, the equal of a month's mortgage payment, or a small color TV, or a back-to-school wardrobe for a child, or a couple of weeks of a family's grocery money for each member of your family.

Politicians such as Klein know they can confuse and mislead the voter if they take money out of different pockets. That is the reason we have so many different forms of taxation. It is also the reason Klein, with a straight face, can say he has kept taxes down - knowing the average person equates county taxes with real estate taxes and not sales tax.

But if the sales tax did not exist, and every resident had an equally assessed house, real estate taxes would have to be raised over \$700 per home.

If the residents of Suffolk had been faced with this kind of rise in their taxes, Klein knows he never would have been elected. But by confusing the issue, he was successful.

Let's hope that during his next term of office, John Klein will put the brakes on runaway spending and not have to look for any new avenues to gouge the residents of Suffolk. And why not?

Happy Thanksgiving

We would be remiss here at Suffolk Life if we did not pause in our hectic schedule to wish all our subscribers, readers, and our advertisers a very warm, Happy Thanksgiving.

We are thankful to you for having subscribed to our paper, giving us the largest paid circulation of any weekly in the area. We are thankful to you for allowing us to bring into your home news of your government, your schools and your community.

We are thankful to our advertisers for giving us the opportunity to bring their messages to our readers. We are thankful we were able to save you, our readers several hundreds of dollars by bringing you the best values the retail community had to offer.

We are thankful for the democracy that governs in this country and allows us to have and voice our opinions.

There is a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. And why not?

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Brookhaven - Haven For Low Income Housing?

A coalition of groups has brought suit against Brookhaven Town to force this municipality to provide low income housing. The coalition maintains there is not adequate housing available for people in the low income brackets.

A ride through Brookhaven will pinpoint section after section of low income neighborhoods-small houses on small plots of land, lived in by people with very modest incomes.

In reality, the group suing the town is advocating subsidized housing, not low income housing. The group is advocating houses built for people from outside the community whose low incomes are provided by taxpayers' subsidies.

The thrust of the suit is aimed at Brookhaven's recent upzoning. Much of the open land in Brookhaven Town has been upzoned to restrict the number of units that can be built on an acre of land. The reasons for this legislation are the limited water supply, the ability of the land to absorb effluence without contaminating the fresh water supply, and the desire of the present community to contain the congestion and growth within the community.

All are valid reasons. It has been proven conclusively that communities that grow unrestricted breed problems. The more houses you place on an acre means an increased demand for services. This leads to increased taxation.

We believe the government has a responsibility to keep the tax burden of the present landowners within manageable proportions. When a person purchases a house in a community, he should be able to realistically anticipate the present and future tax burden he

must shoulder. If this is going to be increased enormously by allowing high density development, the community itself has the responsibility to prevent its occurrence.

As for the subsidized housing: The aim is commendable, but the practice is questionable.

The middle class homeowner pays the greatest proportion of both income and real estate taxes in the country. It is he who is hardest hit and has the most difficult time with inflation. It will be the middle income taxpayer who will end up contributing the most towards subsidized housing while he is having the hardest time holding on to his own home.

It just doesn't make sense nor is it fair to cause a man to give up his own home because of the tax burden that pays for someone else to live in a home without working or producing as he does.

The new Democratic administration which will take over the reins of government in Brookhaven will be faced with this complex problem. The Democrats were elected by the middle class and it is they who the Democrats will have to represent.

In order to be re-elected, the Democrats will have to find ways for the middle class to have more spendable income left in their paychecks after taxes. If they don't, and give in to the liberal propositions that rob the middle class while giving to the rich and the poor, Brookhaven will again be a solidly Republican town.

We hope the new administration approaches the problem of low income-subsidized housing from a pragmatic point of view as well as a humane one. And why not?

Replace Politicians With Professionals

The County Legislature has the authority to name department heads. Since the Democrats have taken control of the board, we can assume that there will be a number of changes forthcoming.

In the past, the Republicans have appointed people as administrators on the basis of patronage favors rather than ability. This caused slipshod management and tremendous waste of the taxpayers' money.

The new Democratic majority can and must justify the faith the voters have shown in them by selecting department heads strictly on the basis of merit. They must not fall into the same trap their former colleagues, the Republicans, did and assign top job slots as patronage rewards.

The Democrats must follow the example of Peter Cohalan, Islip Town's supervisor. When Cohalan took over the reins of the Town's government, he searched the country for the best talent available. He convinced competent professionals they were needed in Islip, and that there was opportunity for them to excell in their fields. He promised them if they did the job they were hired to do, politicians would stick to a

"hands off" policy.

Cohalan has been successful. Islip was named the best run town in New York State by a non-partisan committee. Islip enjoys the benefits of professional management with expertise in each specific field. The people heading departments who were brought in by Cohalan are independent and have successfully produced tangible results for the people of Islip.

Suffolk County desperately needs professionalism. We have the money in the county budget to attract the country's very best. We should seek no less. The new Democratic majority must make this one of their priorities. It may not make the party faithful happy, but it will make the residents and taxpayers happy-and this is who the elected officials must please first.

We are off to a late start in Suffolk County, but not too late to accomplish change. We urge all our readers to contact their legislators and encourage them to select competent management professionals to help run Suffolk County. It is of utmost importance. And why not?

Why Do The Liberals Fear Reagan?

The liberal press has started a campaign to discredit Ronald Reagan as a presidential candidate.

Why do they fear this man so much? Is it that he speaks the language of the people? Is it that

he is voicing the concerns of the people that liberals have refused to hear? Are they afraid Middle Class America might wake up and realize Reagan is speaking out about the things that have been bothering them?

Reagan, governing California during the same period that Rockefeller was Governor of New York, cut welfare costs while increasing benefits for those who really needed them. He checked the growth of state government while Rockefeller was driving New York to the brink of bankruptcy by creating the bureaucratic monster we live with today.

Reagan believes an individual is first responsible to himself. Is this bad? It is mystifying to someone who is a member of the fourth estate why the liberal press fears Reagan so intensely.

It's going to be a long presidential race and we are happy to see that Ronald Reagan has thrown his hat into the ring and will be representing the voice of the middle class. And why not?

Winner Takes All

Under English law, the loser in a court battle is mandated to pay all legal expenses, both his own and his opponent's. Under the American system of law, more often than not, the victor may win the battle and ends up paying his own legal expenses and court costs as well. This discourages the average person from challenging injustices that are perpetrated against him.

As government grows larger and becomes more involved in our every day lives by imposing new rules and regulations, this becomes more obvious. But most individuals and even companies do not have the money to hire competent legal help to defend themselves against governmental interference. As a result, laws imposed upon us go unchallenged.


If we operated under the English judicial system, the tidal wave of bureaucracy that is drowning us all could be challenged. If people knew regulations that were being imposed upon them were unjust, they would not be reluctant to challenge them. This would stop the bureaucrats from interpreting laws and imposing restrictions that were never meant to be.

At present, if you want to challenge a bureaucratic interpretation of a law, you may do so only by paying for expensive legal counseling yourself. Even if you are successful and win your case, you have only the satisfaction of knowing you did win. You are still stuck with enormous attorney's fees. So even if you win, you lose. This is not the kind of justice the authors of the Constitution had in mind.

We encourage our legislators to ponder the predicament the average American finds himself confronted with. They should enact laws which would mandate that the loser in a court battle pay for all court costs. We feel this is just and will cut down on the assumed power of bureaucrats that no one seems able to control. And why not?

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