

## An Election Reflection

Maybe because we work with government every day in the newspaper business, we place special emphasis and value on the individual American's right to vote. We know how important each individual's participation is to the overall democratic process of selecting our leaders, the people who will run not only our government, but in many ways our individual lives.

In the waning days of this past campaign, we were attempting to analyze one of the races. We were shocked and dismayed to find, in this particular district, that only 39 percent of those eligible were registered to vote. We had assumed, based obviously on erroneous information, that registration was in the 70 to 75 percent level.

A quick check revealed that in all of Suffolk County, only 440,000 of the eligible voters were registered. This meant that approximately 55 percent of those who had a right to have a say in our government had refused to take part in the system. Since Jan. 1, another 100,000 people have registered. We are now up to 545,000 eligible voters or, approximately, in the 55 to 60 percent level.

We can understand past cynicism and frustration felt by many. It was a choice between tweedle dum and tweedle dee. Although they ran under different labels, both espoused similar philosophies. In most races both philosophies were predominately liberal, which simply translated into taxing the working man to support programs for those who were not productive.

The swing this year did produce candidates with definite and distinct political philosophies. For the first

time in our memory in almost all races you had a clear-cut choice between conservatives and liberals.

The system of politics turns many people off. They are turned off mainly because they don't understand it and are not involved. Our political system, on balance, is one of the finest products of this free country of ours. Politics gives the individual from every walk of life an opportunity to participate in determining his future and the quality of life he desires.

This participation need not be limited to the voting booth. It should include work and support for candidates who strongly espouse your particular viewpoint.

We saw in this year's campaigns many new faces, new ideas, and new enthusiasms. Several times we heard people say politics is fun. And: "I have had the opportunity of making some great new acquaintances."

The system does work if you want it to. For those who are not registered, who did not take part by voting yesterday, we feel shame and sorrow. They have abdicated, given up their rights as citizens. They have missed the personal satisfaction of helping select the leaders of our country.

We urge all political parties during this coming year to mount a massive registration drive. Let the committeemen from each party go out into their districts and explain to their constituents the simple procedure of registration and the importance of the individual's vote. Let each of the political leaders make it their personal goal that Suffolk County be the most thoroughly registered county in the country, regardless of the political affiliation.

And why not?

## Riverhead Is The County Seat

When Suffolk was first established as a county, Riverhead was the logical choice for the county seat, halfway point between Montauk and Huntington. All county buildings were located here. During the past 20 years, part of the county has been moved to Hauppauge, a duplication of buildings and personnel.

Arthur Cromarty, administrative judge of the State Supreme Court system in Suffolk, wants even more there. He has endorsed and is encouraging a centralization of all courts in Hauppauge. Cromarty envisions the creation of a multi-million dollar, elaborate complex that would add substantially to the county's indebtedness. If Cromarty's plan is approved, the East End of Long Island would suffer a crucial blow, as hundreds of people now employed either directly or indirectly by the court system in the East End would be out of work.

Cromarty's plan would necessitate

the abandoning of numerous county facilities already in existence at the county seat. It would add additional fuel to the feverish fire from East End residents for secession from Suffolk.

County courts belong at the county seat, the geographical center of the county. County Executive Peter Cohalan has appointed a committee to study Cromarty's suggestion. Unfortunately, Cohalan has failed to nominate as members any East End residents or East End lawyers. The conclusion of the committee can only be pro-Hauppauge. We almost can guarantee little examination or investigation will be considered for the East End.

We must admit being surprised at Cohalan's neglect to include East End thinking in this study committee. Cohalan has, in the past, been mindful of the need to give proper consideration of eastern Suffolk and its needs. When he took office on New Year's Day, he chose Riverhead as

the site of his swearing-in ceremonies, when Hauppauge would have been more convenient for him. He did so, he said then, because Riverhead "is the county seat." He apparently lost sight of that fact, however, when he picked his study committee members.

Legislators and town officials from the East End should protest the composition of Cohalan's committee and unite to fight the removal of the courts from the East End to Hauppauge.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### Incompetence, inefficiency, mismanagement

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This letter is forwarded in response to Mr. Jeff Sievers' article on the federal census in the Suffolk Life (Riverhead Edition) issue of Oct. 1, 1980.

Mr. Sievers sounds like a politician in his injudicious use of the word "political" when he attributes most, if not all, of the misfortunes of the census undercount to "political expediency." This is a cliché used often by the press to express dismay at government operations.

Mr. Sievers and the public deserve the undercount. How much undercount is anybody's guess. Incompetence, inefficiency, mismanagement -- are all terms that can be applied to the complete ineffectiveness of the Bureau of the Census. The agency is run by amateurs from top to bottom. No professional worth his salt would ever change an original figure. This is absolutely unethical to a survey statistician. But, unfortunately, the agency doesn't have many professionals left.

I speak with 30 years experience in all aspects of reports management in procurement, comptroller, and quality assurance for two military agencies, from designing and filling in forms, to analyzing and reporting data derived therefrom to the highest echelons of the military departments in Washington, D.C. In collecting statistical data at the point of entry, management must place the most skilled, dedicated and motivated people -- people who are imbued with the highest ethics of statistical reporting.

The Bureau of the Census has gone very far afield from this practice. It places its most inexperienced people to act as enumerators without adequate supervision and guidance. Two attributes are needed by all enumerators: "street smarts" -- an exact knowledge of the community in which they are working, and an attitude of precise reporting with specific emphasis on follow-up. Accuracy is a must; lack of time or experience is no excuse in statistical work. A professional statistician creates many enemies among the general public for his close attention to accuracy and detail. His loyalty is to his statistical peers who respect him for his dedication to statistical ethical principles.

Census Bureau personnel do not have that dedication. Why? One reason at least is that they do not try, for one reason or another, to hire qualified people. One source of good people is the many retired federal employees who have had many years productive experience in various statistical projects. It doesn't pay these retired people to go to work on the census, for they would lose a portion of their retirement annuity, on which they pay

federal and state taxes, by the way. Only Congress can make the change in the law, and the subject is too far down the list of priorities for any congressman to get excited about it. Even though I and my wife were well-known in the community, we still haven't been counted by the census people, neither by mail nor by personal visit.

I do not believe it is "political" as Mr. Sievers suggests. I think it is just incompetence on the part of management of the Bureau of the Census. It just does not know how to go about conducting a census. The management team which conducted the 1980 census should have been replaced years ago, or at least trained in the operation of conducting such an important event as a national census. Just wait until their obsolete computers start whirling around and spewing out reams of statistical data, the accuracy of which no one knows with any degree of precision. Just think of the impact on the decision-making process, and the poor idiots who have to use the data in ways that affect the lives of millions of people. There must be a better way to run a railroad (and I don't mean the Long Island Railroad).

Sincerely,  
Norbert G. McCabe  
Riverhead

### Face the facts

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Isn't it about time the TOWN government stopped pointing the finger of blame and began the task of dealing with the TOWN's problem -- processing approximately 18,000 grievance forms and the verification and certification of the entire TOWN's tax rolls?

Ever since January of this year, elected officials, civic associations, individual homeowners, and yes, even the TOWN itself, have actively worked to inform the overassessed homeowner about the town's property tax grievance procedures.

The TOWN knew six months ago that they would receive a record number of grievance forms -- why didn't they act then to find solutions to their problems? This is just one more case of the TOWN government's holier than thou approach.

Face the facts, Mr. Lefkowitz, and face up to the responsibility of resolving the problems. The residents of Brookhaven are too smart to be fooled by the same old "political" rhetoric which lays blame rather than looks for workable solutions.

Sincerely,  
A.M. Murphy  
Coram

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# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 14

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900, 924-4466; Classified Ads 288-5000  
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Mastic, Shirley  
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## Baranello Step Down!

When Dominic Baranello became chairman of the New York State Democrats, we questioned whether he could effectively continue to be county leader as well. Baranello is a super politician. Working with little, he built the county Democratic Party into a viable, opposing organization. Over the last decade, there have been numerous victories for the Democrats on the local, county and state levels.

During this past campaign, however, it became painfully apparent that Baranello's spark and leadership abilities had been seriously diluted. There was little Democratic organization. Candidates were without funds, and more important, the backbone of any organization -- workers.

Speaking with one of Tom Twomey's campaign managers the day after the election, we were told, "We had all the chiefs in place, if you could have harnessed the wind we could have sailed a boat to Europe; but, there just weren't the people needed to man the oars."

In 1981, we will elect new town and county governments. Hopefully, it will not be a one-party government.

Suffolk County suffered from too many years under one-party leadership. Many of the problems we have today are a result of this closed club management.

There are a number of people who believe in and espouse the democratic philosophy; some would make excellent candidates. They won't run, though, unless they feel they have a viable organization behind them. An organization that can raise funds, provide the technical know-how, and most important, enthusiastic workers that are critical for victory.

Baranello is doing a creditable job as state leader. He should stay there, but relinquish his control over the Suffolk organization. There are people within the organization who have the ability to be strong, effective leaders. Pat Vecchio, supervisor of Smithtown, would be an ideal choice, and so would retired Congressman Jerry Ambrose. There are others who also deserve consideration.

We hope the Democrats will get their act together so we can have a viable two-party system of government here in Suffolk.

And why not?

## Eliminating Duplication

The Suffolk County Legislature, under the leadership of Tony Noto, has been billing itself and building itself toward being a co-equal in all sense with the county executive. This is not the intention under the County Charter.

The county executive's job and function is clearly spelled out in the charter. The function and purpose of the County Legislature is not as clearly defined. Through this lack of definition, Noto has assumed powers which were never intended.

In assuming these powers he has created tremendous duplication. This is being paid for by the taxpayers of Suffolk County. No organization can manage effectively with two heads. One must be subservient to the other. Duplicating functions and costs only wastes taxpayers' money and im-

pedes the functions of the organization.

This disgraceful power play by Noto quickly is coming to an end. The coalition of independent Republicans and Democrats is opposing Noto, his aims and his maneuvers. It is working with the county executive, the elected head of county government, to achieve better government.

It is expected when the Legislature reorganizes in January it will select a new presiding officer. We anticipate he will be the type of person who recognizes that his function is to produce meaningful legislation and quality government. A presiding officer is a prestigious position, one of power -- but it is not equal to the elected county executive.

And why not?

## What About The Independents?

Suffolk County Executive Peter Cohalan and the Suffolk County Legislature are to be congratulated for establishing a non-partisan board to determine the re-alignment of the Suffolk County Legislature. Too often, legislative lines have been drawn solely for political reasons. The gerrymandered districts are a hodgepodge that escapes reason and makes it difficult to serve people.

The worst example in the County Legislature is the First Legislative District. Logically it should have been drawn along east-west lines. Instead, it runs west from Montauk, encompasses the Town of East Hampton, stops short of Southampton Village, then goes north taking Shelter Island, Southold and Riverhead Towns, and then a small portion of Brookhaven Town. It's virtually impossible to represent.

We are dismayed, though, that the re-appointment committee will be

stacked strictly along major political lines, five Democrats and five Republicans. Why not Independents, too?

Voters, in droves, are choosing to register Independent, refusing to align themselves with any of the major or minor parties. This past year there were almost 100,000 new registrants. More than 83,000 registered as blanks - Independents. This is more than what is registered in either of our major parties, significantly more than registered in all the minor parties combined.

A couple of Independents on the board might be able to logically break, fairly, stalemates that will inevitably come about because of the even split between Democrats and Republicans. Don't you think it wise for the county executive and legislature to consider the inclusion of Independents? We do.

And why not?

## Prudenti To State

Speaking of state leadership, Suffolk County Republican Leader Tony Prudenti now is considered to be a viable candidate for the State Republican chairman.

Prudenti took over the debt-ridden Suffolk County Republican organization at one of its lowest ebbs. It had just been emasculated by its first major primary in its history. It was badly in debt and disorganized. Prudenti, in a period of less than one year, has put the organization back on firm financial ground.

His enthusiasm and organizational abilities have rebuilt the party from the ground up. A lot of heads have rolled, a lot of ideas have changed -- "New Republicanism" is the key word. Prudenti threw his craps on the table with his early support for D'Amato and Reagan. D'Amato was an incredible longshot. Without Prudenti's early support, his cam-

paigned would not have gotten off the ground. Nassau Republican Leader Joseph Margiotta now takes credit for engineering D'Amato's success. But the fact is Prudenti's early support alienated Margiotta. He was forced into a position of supporting his native son, reluctantly.

Word has it Margiotta is scheduled to become a national committeeman, leaving the way open for Prudenti to become state leader. If D'Amato does not have a short memory, he will use his new found powers and support Prudenti for this position. Prudenti has numerous victories and a record of organizational ability behind him. He will make an excellent state chairman.

It won't be bad for Suffolk, either, to have residents in the two top political spots in the state.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On behalf of this Chamber, I extend thanks to you for the fine cooperation shown to us by Suffolk Life during our preparation for "Autumn By The Sea," the L.I. Fall Festival Weekend of October 10-13.

Unlike other fall festivals, "Autumn By The Sea" was undertaken as a not-for-profit event. Despite a number of problems that developed at the last minute, conflicts with other events held in Riverhead, Mattituck and Bethpage, and poor weather, we feel that the festival was a success since it attracted many first time visitors to the Greenport-Southold area, as well as getting many local people to visit attractions right in their own backyards.

Of eight festival weekends, ours was the only one not profiled by Newsday. The North Fork always is slighted in media coverage in favor of the more glamorous Hamptons. Undoubtedly, the coverage given us by Suffolk Life was instrumental in making the weekend a success.

Special thanks to Ralph Zeblin for coming

to our Chamber meeting and for doing the legwork to set up the full page ad. His efforts are appreciated.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,  
Thomas R. Taylor  
Festival Committee  
Greenport-Southold Chamber of Commerce  
Greenport

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I've received your paper for the past three years and always intended to pay for the subscription. But like so many others, if you don't do it while fresh in your mind, you forget.

I feel you are doing the community a tremendous service in bringing to the forefront the many ways our taxes are being misused, abused, etc. Keep up the good work.

Enclosed find my subscription payment for the past three years, this year, and the next two years. Thank you.

Robert L. Sugrue  
Miller Place

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## The Reagan Administration

We are delighted at the early choices Ronald Reagan has made in his staff. They appear to have been well thought out, people who are capable of giving the president the kind of guidance and direction he will need in facing the serious dilemmas this country must overcome.

Carter's biggest failure was his choice of top people. Many were country boys who didn't have the expertise or the experience either to handle or guide the president on national issues. Carter also kept many people on in top spots who had become fixtures on the Washington scene. They had survived Ford, Nixon and Johnson; some went back as far as Eisenhower.

Reagan clearly has a mandate to change America. We need no more New Deals, Fair Deals or Great Societies. America was founded and grew because it had natural resources, ambitious people and a capitalistic economic structure that encouraged people to prosper from their hard work and expertise in their chosen fields. Reagan's mandate is to return America and its economic system back to the basics.

Many heads will have to roll. Some of the bureaucrats will be difficult to unseat as their jobs are protected by

archaic laws that save the incompetent but force the progressive, productive workers to look beyond government for opportunity and advancement.

Reagan's term of office itself should be a test of whether a single term for president is feasible. Reagan is a realist. He knows that the odds, because of his age, are firmly against his running or serving a second term. He most likely will be a single term president. He will not have the encumbrances of politics and the concern about running for a second term to interfere with his decisions. He faces the challenge of overcoming our weaknesses, solving our problems.

Reagan has the opportunity for greatness. He can afford to make daring and unpopular decisions, for he does not have to answer directly to the voters before all his programs have come to fulfillment. We trust that with the caliber of the staff he is putting together he will make hard and unpopular decisions leading to an era of renewed greatness, economic opportunity and a strong position for this country in the world that will not only earn respect, but will guarantee peace. We wish him well.

And why not?

an I & R procedure for this question to be decided - we still don't. The Right to Life Party was formed in its absence. The Right to Life Party today is not only a symbol of the unborn, but of a failure by our politicians to recognize the right of the citizens to decide controversial issues for themselves. Without I & R here in New York and in the United States, there will be a proliferation of single

issue parties to counter the insensitivity of the political machine and its inability to satisfy a committed electorate.

The politicians could eliminate the need for single issue parties if they gave the public the right of direct vote on the matters that pertain closely to their lives.

And why not?

## Will It Cost Carey The Governorship?

Richard Nixon had his Watergate, Governor Carey has his next door neighbor's desire for a summer home. Who would have thought that an insignificant political burglary, a break-in of the Democratic National Headquarters would have brought down one of the strongest presidents the United States ever had? It did.

Gov. Carey's crude misuse of power and the taking of his neighbor's property may well turn out to be his Watergate.

Carey has a lot of answering to do. The sense of fair play of New York State citizens has been offended badly. The home in question was supposed to interfere with the governor's security, but many believe it interfered with the governor's water view. Many are asking, "What is the big deal about security for the governor?" He doesn't seem to be too worried about his security in the watering holes scattered throughout New York. By his own admission, he

occasionally jogs in Central Park, a place even the more daring of New Yorkers fear to tread.

Carey's summer home on Shelter Island is in a picturesque location. Native Shelter Islanders report that Carey only uses the house a few times during a summer. Even more disturbing is the fact he had an opportunity of first refusal on the property when the original owner decided to sell, at half what the state offered with our taxes for the property after construction had begun.

We are happy that he backed off and has agreed upon the return of the property to its owner, but we're left with a feeling that bad press caused his change of heart. We wonder what other high-handed schemes he's been involved in or will get into as governor. Is Carey's Shelter Island as revealing as Nixon's Watergate?

And why not?

## Single Party Politics

Many people are deeply concerned by the Right to Life Party's movement into politics. They argue vehemently against single issue political parties. These same people thwarted the Initiative and Referendum procedure here in New York State which would have avoided this new political phenomenon.

The Right to Life Party was born out of emotionalism and frustration. Those who subscribe to the theory that life begins at conception watched with dismay as children were cut out of their mothers. All of us have seen the pictures of formed babies taken in the name of social progress and women's rights.

Over a decade ago, when the

abortion issue was first debated, the argument was used that abortions would only be performed in cases where the mother's life would be placed in jeopardy, or in incestuous or rape-caused pregnancies. The laws were hardly on the books when abortion became the "in" means of birth control. There was a group of fundamentalists who felt abortion should not be performed for any reason. There was a larger group that believed abortion should only be performed for special social reasons. Few believed abortion should be allowed for any reason.

The fundamentalists and the middle group cried out to have the issue decided by the voters. We did not have

## Readers' Opinion

### Open Letter

Dear Hon. Peter Cohalan and Anthony Noto:

Six months of intense research and correspondence by Tax Action by Senior Citizens of Suffolk County with federal and state officials relative to the above program reveals federal EPA permission granting our state much latitude to install such a program (Auto Emission Inspection Program). However, our governor, the state commissioner of Motor Vehicles, James Melton, and EPA State Commissioner Robert Flacke are most determined to saddle our nine lower counties with an unworkable, very expensive, time-consuming program. Testing equipment will reveal little or no information determining the percentage of ozone carbon dioxide, sulphur and other noxious pollutants emitted. This equipment will be unable to test any of the older cars not having catalytic converters.

Letters from Charles S. Warren, Federal regional administrator and William S. Baker, chief of its local air program, indicate they plan to adhere to any plan installed by the state. However, Mr. Warren's Aug. 25 letter to Congressman William Carney admitted there should be no pollution program in eastern Suffolk; but how could the Motor Vehicle Department clerk know which areas were not pollutant before releasing new automobile license plates?

Our organization has received much support to defeat the above program from Mr. Carney and Sen. Ken LaValle, as well as John Behan, at the state level. We believe now is the time for our county government to become deeply concerned with this problem and suggest the county attorney general be instructed to bring immediate court action to delay and defeat this plan before Jan. 1, 1981. The amended Clean Air Act of 1977 stipulates any state car inspection pollution plan was

not to harass the public, which certainly is occurring here. This organization vigorously supports any action by you for its defeat and would appreciate how you intend to proceed, at the earliest opportunity.

Very truly yours,  
Norman F. Jacobs  
Vice President  
Tax Action by Senior Citizens (TASC)

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Many thanks to you and your staff for the interest and courtesy shown me during last Thursday's interview.

Your continued efforts to provide more convenient boat registration locations for Eastern Long Island residents was most welcome and I have, as of this date, taken the necessary steps to affect this service. I have discussed this matter with the Motor Vehicle Commissioner and in view of the fact that in 1979 there were a total of 17,000 applicants for boat registration with a major portion of those being for East End residents, he agreed the service to our residents should be provided.

To wit: your suggestion to provide more convenient boat registration locations for Eastern Long Island residents was most welcome and I have, as of this date, taken the necessary steps to affect this service. I have discussed this matter with the Motor Vehicle Commissioner and in view of the fact that in 1979 there were a total of 17,000 applicants for boat registration with a major portion of those being for East End residents, he agreed the service to our residents should be provided.

Therefore, effective Monday, Oct. 13, 1980 all boat registrations will be accepted at the Riverhead Motor Vehicle Office during regular business hours: Monday to Thursday, 8:30 to 4:30, and Friday from 8:30 to 7:00.

With best personal regards, I am,  
Sincerely yours,  
Arthur J. Felice  
Suffolk County Clerk

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## The Job's Not Worth It

The position of county legislator by charter is a part-time position. Only 10 short years ago, the intended salary was \$5,000 per year.

Last week, the legislators voted themselves a \$5,000 raise on top of their \$23,500 salary. Their new salary will be higher than the New York State legislators, which are among the highest in the nation.

In addition to this lucrative salary, legislators receive a full complement of expenses. Your taxes fund all their benefits, which include pensions, health insurance, retirement funds, offices scattered throughout the county, secretaries and aides, cars and gasoline, as well as funds to cover just about everything their little hearts desire.

This latest raid on your taxes is pure arrogance and adds impetus for the abolition of the Suffolk County Legislature. The legislature, as a body, is an obstructionist duplication of government. Its intended purpose was to be a part-time board of directors to set policy and develop

legislation for the county. It never was intended to be a working arm of government. The nuts and bolts, the management of the county clearly was a function of the county executive.

As the legislators increased their salaries, they have enlarged their scope to justify the monies they are being paid. Instead of their function being productive, today they interfere and stand in the way of a smooth governmental operation. Obviously, the legislature will not clean up its own act and must be limited or dissolved by the taxpayers.

In the very near future, the legislators again will be presented, under the Initiative and Referendum procedure, a petition asking the voters to choose between a weighted board of supervisors, or continuing with the self-serving, high-priced legislature. Hopefully, the legislators this time will allow this question to be answered once and for all by the voters of Suffolk County.

And why not?

continue to live on Long Island.

The county executive and the Suffolk County Legislature must act

immediately to protest this idiotic Health Department mandate.

And why not?

## The Base Is The Place

There are approximately 100 heroin addicts from eastern Long Island in county-run methadone programs. In order to kick their habit, they must receive daily dosages of methadone, counseling and other treatment.

East End addicts must travel now to the west end of Suffolk County for help. This makes it very difficult for them to maintain regular jobs, and discourages many from entering the program. To ease this problem, the Health Department's Division of Drug Control proposed the establishment of a clinic on the East End. First reports indicated it was looking at a storefront location on Riverhead's Main Street. This would be the wrong place. A retail center is not the environment for a health facility.

Riverhead was suggested because of its central location for the five East End towns. But a more logical place

would be the Westhampton airbase, located alongside Sunrise Highway and convenient to both the North and South Forks, as well as Brookhaven Town.

The county owns the base, where dozens of buildings are located which could be converted into this much-needed facility at little or no cost to the county. The base is in the middle of the Pine Barrens, removed from any centers of populations. There are few attractions that would encourage the clinic's patients to hang around after their treatment has been completed.

The Westhampton base makes much more sense than a congested downtown area, and should be considered seriously for the establishment of this facility.

And why not?

## But, Let Us Give Thanks

I am bored. I've got nothing to do, but I have a room full of toys and other amusements .... I didn't get a raise, but I still have my job. I didn't make a profit, but I still have my business. I didn't serve steak but I cooked a good tuna casserole. I don't have a Porsche, but my car starts and stops.

Fifty-two Americans are held hostage in Iran, but we're not fighting a war around the world. Gasoline

costs \$1.25 per gallon, but at least there is gasoline available. Depending upon how you look at it you can have little to give thanks for or a multitude of blessings.

We prefer to be positive. America truly is the land of opportunity, the land of plenty. We hope you will join us in giving thanks, praying to the Almighty with words of appreciation for all we do have and have received.

And why not?

## But Who Will Be Left To Drink?

Last week, the Suffolk County Board of Health, with little fanfare, passed regulations designed to protect the area's water supply. These resolutions will have far-reaching effects if implemented. The Health Department has mandated effective January 1, houses built on lots less than one acre in most areas, and lots less than a half-acre in some areas, must be sewerred.

The area covered by the Health Department's plan encompasses more than 100,000 acres in Brookhaven, and parts of Islip, Riverhead and Southampton Towns. In effect, the Health Department has just destroyed every community's master plan and usurped local home rule zoning powers. It has done what the old power brokers who brought us the Southwest Sewer District failed to accomplish. It has mandated that most of Suffolk County must be

sewerred.

The Health Department itself isn't even sure if this wide-reaching measure will be able to accomplish its intended goal as it has based this mammoth decision on imperfect knowledge.

It is estimated that implementation of the Health Department's regulations will increase the cost of individual building plots by up to \$20,000. This will make housing for middle class, the backbone of Long Island, impossible to achieve. Undoubtedly it will be the end of the building and construction industry in eastern Suffolk.

By the time the Health Department finishes with these regulations we should have the purest water available in the nation. But little good will it do -- except as a bottled commodity shipped out of the area, because few will be able to afford to

## Readers' Opinion

"He who pays should know"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

From time to time, your "Why-Not" notes fall within my bailiwick of special interest, and I am moved to commend your knowledgeable editorial expression under the heading: "He Who Pays Should Know."

Several of the states have incorporated "sunshine laws" to insure that collective bargaining in the public sector is conducted within the view and hearing of the general public. A recent study of the experience under such state laws appears to disclose that the exposure insured through open bargaining tends to cut down and eliminate excessive wage demands from labor and other non-supportable counter-productivity fringe benefits. Collective bargaining in the

public sector is subject to politics and the sensitivity of elected officials to labor lobbying, "end plays" and similar pressures. Open bargaining tends to awaken the voting public to what is involved in current collective bargaining confrontations, so that the elected officials become more aware of the need to be responsive to the general tax-paying public, as well as to the labor spokesmen.

Keep punching! Best regards.

Sincerely yours,  
Harry H. Rains  
Rains & Pogrebin  
Law Offices  
Mineola

"Teachers make a good scapegoat"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your recent editorial on the "High Cost of Tenure" was mostly ill-informed and played to the confusion and fear of an exhausted tax-paying public. People today are willing to put the blame on everyone but themselves. Teachers make a good scapegoat at a time when our economic system has failed us, again; and you certainly know how to take advantage of it.

I wonder how well you pay your employees and the kind of treatment you give them? I guess we would have to find out by seeing

them after hours when you're not around.

Your most revealing statement occurred when you accused unionized teachers of "acting like some students." I don't know the young people you know, but the ones I know would resent your statement as churlish and out of contact with reality.

Take my name off your mailing list. I only expect to see this letter in a free press.

Ned Bobkoff  
Theatre Department  
Dowling College, Oakdale

USPS 098-300

# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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