

# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Tribute To Our Veterans

Tuesday, November 11, is Veterans Day, set aside each year as an opportunity to pay tribute to those who served our country when called upon to do so. It is fitting that we do so, for many of our men and woman have sacrificed much to preserve our freedom and democratic way of life.

Such honor should come not only from the citizens of our land who cherish freedom, but from our government as well. Unfortunately this is not always the case.

A case in point: Congress recently created the Vietnam Veterans National Medal, a commemorative medal available to all Vietnam veterans and their families from the U.S. Mint. The front of the bronze medal depicts U.S. combat troops during a helicopter assault operation superimposed on a map of Vietnam. On the back are the words: "In honor of those men who gave of themselves in an effort to ensure Democracy and peace throughout the world this medal is struck by Act of Congress 1984."

That's a well-deserved honor for those who fought through the hell of Vietnam. The honor, however, becomes tarnished by the fact that the medals are being sold! A recent

release indicates: "The one and a half inch medal sells for \$2 (\$2.25 by mail)...the 3-inch medal sells for \$15 (\$16 by mail)."

Hold on a minute now! Congress authorizes a medal honoring those who served in Vietnam and then offers them for sale? They are selling the recognition these veterans have earned? What kind of a money-making scam is this?

This is an insult! Certainly we can find enough money in a federal budget that is filled with wasteful spending to mint the medals and present them with gratitude, not with a bill. Postage? Our Congressional representatives get free mailing privileges to send out all kinds of political rhetoric, but we're going to charge veterans for postage for a medal honoring them for their service?

Honor should be given, not sold. We would strongly suggest our government mark Veterans Day by eliminating this insult to our Vietnam veterans. And we would urge all our readers to make Veterans Day 1986 a day of honor, and a day of thanks, to all our veterans for the sacrifices they have made in our behalf.

And why not?

## D.E.C. Must Be Restructured

One of the major tasks for the governor in the next term of office should be the revamping and the restructuring of the Department of Environmental Conservation. This department, an adjunct to the governor's office, is charged with regulating and protecting wildlife and our aquatic resources, and the protection and regulation of the environment.

The D.E.C. has constantly been a controversial agency, often making and applying rules and regulations arbitrarily and conspicuously. As an example, the D.E.C. banned the tak-

ing of striped bass. This bureaucratic rule wiped out the fall fishing here on Long Island. Over five hundred commercial boats were affected. The D.E.C. allegedly felt that the striped bass contained too high a level of P.C.B.'s, a cancer causing agent. Yet, the D.E.C. is allowing salmon to be taken upstate that contains five times the P.C.B.'s contained by the striped bass on Long Island. Why should upstate fishermen be allowed to catch five salmon while the downstate fishermen, who requested at least a one fish quota per angler, not be allowed to catch

any at all? Is five times as much P.C.B. upstate less harmful than 20 per cent of that amount on Long Island?

The New York State Legislature, in 1983, passed a law banning landfills in 1990 on Long Island. With the passage of this measure they failed to provide the technology, the plans or the bucks to deal with the compliance of these mandates. The D.E.C. has been interpreting this law in their own dictatorial fashion, without regard to problems they are causing. This is the same D.E.C. that, back in the fifties, ordered the municipalities to cease open burning of garbage, the then normal way of disposing of our refuse. The D.E.C. said this would cause air pollution so, therefore, ordered the municipalities to develop landfills. "Dig huge holes and put the garbage in these holes, layer the garbage with sand and in the end, when the holes are filled, you will have instant recreational fields." It seemed logical and one would think the Department of Environmental Conservation would know what was good for the environment.

Low and behold, a few years later the D.E.C. said this method of disposing of our garbage is wrong. The waste is leaching dangerous chemicals into our water and we might pollute a source of our fresh water.. They then told the municipalities to dig new holes, put down a bed of clay, line the clay with rubberized liners and then layer the garbage on top. Many municipalities complied with the D.E.C. regulation only to then be told that "oops! we made a mistake again. Liners can be punctured, so now we want you to put down three layers of clay and three different liners and to finish off the project we want you to put a liner on the top to keep rain water from mixing with the garbage and possibly overflowing the bottom liners." Most municipalities, to meet these new rules and regulations, issued bonds which indebted the taxpayers for 20 to 30 years.

The top liners had not even been put on many of the dumps before new environmental problems developed. The decomposing garbage confined by the liners was building up large quantities of explosive gases and becoming fire and health hazards. The D.E.C. once again had screwed up the environment with their rules and regulations.

The Legislature, in 1983, on the pretense of protecting our ground water, ordered all of these landfills closed by 1990. The solution was resource recovery and incineration of the non-salvagable garbage. All municipalities are to comply with this law by 1990, according to the dictates of the state. The only problem is the "solution" is not proven, the technology questionable, with the risk of spending hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers money.

Islip is the only town in Suffolk which has made an attempt to be in compliance with the law. Even though the law will not go into affect until 1990, the D.E.C. is now refusing to allow Islip to expand their landfill operation until they can have their plant built. This D.E.C. regulation

will force Islip Town to cart their garbage from Long Island to Pennsylvania, where it will be dumped in abandoned coal mines. It will cost the average homeowner in Islip an additional \$300 to \$400 per year to meet these requirements.

What Islip had proposed in the development of a new dump was not only meeting, but surpassing, the requirements for a toxic waste dump. Somehow or another, in the D.E.C.'s mind, plain good old ordinary household garbage is more devastating to the environment than chemical toxic waste. This is ludicrous but typical of the bureaucratic thinking of the engineers and lawyers who sit up in Albany making the rules and regulations, while never going out into the field to see what the real problems are or what the real solutions could be.

The governor answers the critics of the D.E.C. regulations by saying, "What do you want me to do, allow your fresh water to be polluted and poisoned? What do you want me to do, raise your New York State taxes to take care of a problem that is local in nature?" We say to the governor: "What we first want you to do is to find out what is the real source of our fresh water."

Back in the early 60's, geologists told us that Long Island's water came from three large domes that were located thousands of feet below Long Island. These domes, or reservoirs, secreted fresh water to the surface where it was picked up by underground streams that could be tapped by wells, or eventually find its way into swamps and ponds, streams and tributaries of Long Island rivers. There are additional layers of water closer to the surface that were not only replenished from below, but from above, from surface water seeping through the sands. These three domes were supposed to be located in the regions of Laurel, Selden and Levittown. Was this information that was given in the 60's truth or fiction? Is the aquifer that we refer to now the shallow surface water? Would it not be more economical to forget about the aquifer water system and directly tap the domes, piping fresh water from them to municipal disbursement systems?

The response to the governor's second question deals with who is going to pay for the garbage disposal if the mandates are too large for the municipalities to carry out on their own. The burden must be spread over a wider base and that will require a statewide bond issue. The governor knows it, we know it.

With a garbage crisis looming here on Long Island, the atmosphere is charged with bitterness between D.E.C. and town officials, with the D.E.C., according to state legislators who voted for the landfill ban, applying the law differently than had been intended. The legislators insist the D.E.C. should be cooperating with the towns in their efforts to meet the 1990 ban date. But the D.E.C. is being arbitrary, dictatorial, and downright uncooperative.

Governor Cuomo should make

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## SUFFOLK LIFE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

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## DEC Must Be...

Cont. from page 3

changes at the top. He should replace D.E.C. Commissioner Henry Williams, and put in his place someone who is more concerned with results than power. Someone who will forge a path of cooperation with the towns, working with them every step of the way toward ending the stalemate and bitterness. Changes must also be made down along the chain of command, so that the bitterness ends and progress can be made.

Williams was recently quoted as agreeing that trucking garbage off Long Island is "absurd" but continues to push the towns in that direction. He said the state must be firm in dealing with local governments to make local officials see "it is cheaper to cooperate." The record will show, however, that the towns have been cooperating, in fact adhering to D.E.C. edicts, and it has been

anything but cheap. The D.E.C. forced the towns into landfills, and liners, and caps, which resulted in methane and leachates, and wasted dollars. One can hardly blame town officials for being reluctant to blindly follow the directions of a state agency which has been playing "let's see if this works" with town, not state, dollars.

Governor Cuomo has achieved a fine record of success in many areas. But providing the leadership to work with towns toward solving the garbage crisis is not one of them. Unless he takes strong action now toward solving the garbage crisis, he must be labeled with the failure of meeting a vital need, and suffer a critical blot on an otherwise fine record of leadership.

And why not?

## Wednesday Morning Quarterbacking

As the bunting, the ribbons, the posters and the other campaign literature is being taken down this morning, there will be a lot of Wednesday morning quarterbacking going on. Why did we win? Why did we lose the election?

From where we stand, the campaign of 1986 did not happen. It was one of the most boring elections we can remember. We believe the turnout will show that the public felt the same way. At this writing, before the election, we predict that the vote will be one of the lowest ever seen in the past 12 years for a gubernatorial race on Long Island.

Although there were a few bright lights, we often found ourselves picking which was the best of two bad candidates, rather than the best of two good candidates. This was particularly true in the State Senate races. The editorial board felt no enthusiasm for any of the candidates. The Republicans gave us the same old, tired, do nothing, go along to get along, clubhouse boys,

LaValle, Lack and Trunzo. Not one of them is a leader or gave us any hope that Long Island would have representation in the Senate if they were re-elected. On the other hand, the Democrats were worse or had so little experience that we felt discomfort in endorsing any of them. The editorial board endorsed Ira Costell but without great enthusiasm, and more of a reaction to a bitter disappointment in LaValle.

It has become more and more apparent each year that people of quality are rejecting elected governmental service. There is less and less of a two party system here in Suffolk because the Democratic party refuses to be a loyal opposition to the Republicans. Both parties need an infusion of new blood. Without it democracy will suffer.

We encourage every voter who is registered in a political party to become more involved with their party. The time to become involved is now, not just at election time.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Thanks from St. John's Hospital'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

My thanks to you -- Suffolk Life Newspapers -- but most especially to Doreen Ercolano for her feature articles about St. John's Episcopal Hospital.

Your coverage of the birthday celebration we had for our first baby, now twenty years old, was warm and sensitive. The photos and feature on our Second Annual Bed Race made

many people sorry that they hadn't been there personally to witness the fun everyone had. Both stories were interesting in and of themselves, but Doreen added that special touch.

Again, my thank to you and your staff.

Cordially,

**Marianne V. Shackles**  
Director/Public Relations  
Smithtown, NY

## 'Another new name for Shirley'

Dear Editor:

A recent issue made its first comment on the Shirley attempt to once again change its name, originally, Mastic Acres. I thought perhaps you were not interested in commenting on it, but as long as your attention has been drawn to the issue, I am sending you a copy of my 4th and last letter sent to the local paper, which is prominently featuring the issue.

In 1665-1738, William Tangier Smith was deeded 4000 acres of wild land from the King of England, roughly bounded by the Ocean to the Sound and from Carmen's to Forge Rivers.

In 1718, Col. Richard Floyd, our William's grandfather, purchased from William Henry Smith, the son of Tangier Smith, the East end of the land, running roughly down the middle, north and south.

In 1723, Col. Richard Floyd, heired the land to Nicoll Floyd, his son, (William's father), and since then, the East End of the Mast penninsula has remained in the Floyd family.

In 1755, our William was heired that part of the land, known as the Mastic Estate. The history of the Floyds has been well noted, and in greater detail than I will attempt to summarize here.

In an attempt to discard the now lustreless

name of "Shirely" I commend darling little Jennifer in bringing a semblance of sanity offering as an alternate the name of "Harbor."

The point of this letter is that, although I am relieved that the "Hampton" fiasco has been laid to rest (or so it seems), let saner heads consider one more aspect.

Although the name "Floyd Harbor" is a more realistic approach, please consider that the West End of our community (so recently called "Shirley") has always been the Smith family domain going back even before our own William Floyd.

In my humble opinion, would it not be more appropriate and historically correct, to name the West End, "Smith Harbor?" Render to the Smiths, that which is the Smiths, and to the Floyds, that which is the Floyds. Don't attach the Floyd name to that part of the community, that it has never laid claim to.

Note: All you Shirleyites, look at your tax deed. It is, and always will continue to proclaim the area, as "Mastic Acres."

Sincerely,  
**Rita Rech**  
"The Mastics"

## 'Let's declare war now!'

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, three youngsters in their mid-teens, within a few days of each other, had been arrested. All summer long they were drinking, stealing, harassing and dealing cocaine. They were not subtle about their behavior. They were abusive. They went before our Criminal Justice System with a criminal record a mile long, with no address, no family to stand behind them. When they were arraigned instead of being remanded to jail or a children's shelter, they were released back on the street to continue their destructive behavior. As of this writing, they are stealing and dealing in lower Port Jefferson.

What will it take for the system to wake up!

Another murder or rape? I am fed-up with their in-action. We talk quality of life and continue to ignore life staring us in the face.

Every community is in jeopardy. The drug and alcohol problem is epidemic. We don't need any more sophisticated rhetoric. We need action. We need men and women with the guts to stand up and be counted and say no more, and do something to make things better. Let's declare war NOW! The Criminal Justice System is as dangerous and life threatening as the crack dealer and user!

Respectfully,  
**Fr. Francis Pizzarelli, S.M.M.**  
Executive Director  
Port Jefferson

## 'Thank you from Humane Society'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On behalf of the Manorville Humane Society, I would like to thank you for publishing photos of the animals we have for adoption in Suffolk Life. The response has been overwhelming. We are still following up on calls we've received from your July pet promotion, and we have placed many pets in excellent homes, due to your coverage.

Since our group does not yet have a shelter, our members (who are all volunteers)

"foster-home" animals in their own homes until they can be placed with responsible, loving owners. Your publication has doubled our adoption rate and we would like to express our deepest appreciation for your help. If the animals could talk I'm sure they'd all add their own "Thank You's."

Sincerely,  
**Sandra Betz**,  
President  
Manorville Humane Society

## 'Would you believe this?'

DEAR EDITOR,

Would you believe this?

I'm picking up the garbage at this house when a man came out of the yard, climbs up on my truck, looks in my face. I say what is your beef? And he hands me some money and says

it's a cold morning this morning; have coffee on our house. Now I ask you again, would you believe this guy?

Thanks fellow, you made my day.  
**Your garbage pick-up man**  
Islip

## 'Shirley name change debate'

Dear Editor

There are two sides to every story and the Shirley name change controversy is no exception. Several thoughts come to mind.

1. The Chamber of Commerce supports the name change and is sending out a ballot. They are also counting the ballot. Though I am a person with a lot of trust and faith in people, I still question this. "The American Way" would be by secret ballot so no outside influence would be brought to bear upon the voter.

2. Shirley does have the following bodies of water--a river, a bay, a lake, a creek, an ocean and lots of pools. But where is the Harbor?

3. William Floyd lived in Mastic Beach, not Shirley.

4. If the "new people with the new money" want so much to be a part of our community and give it new life, why is there a big fence going up around their development?

5. Walter T. Shirley wanted to make the

American Dream (owning our own home) affordable. Floyd Harbor supporters want to make it impossible.

6. I wonder--if I changed my name would I be worth more money?

7. If these condos and new estates were being built in Mastic or Mastic Beach, would we want to change their name? Are they next?

8. Who's going to pay to change all the signs, stationery, maps, addresses etc. the chamber?

9. Are we changing the name for pride or is it for money?

These and more thoughts come to mind.

For more information write to the Committee to Keep Shirley Shirley, P.O. Box 213, Shirley, New York 11967.

Sincerely,  
**Stan Prekurat**  
Shirley



## Got A Dime Brother?

Hey you out there, with your fancy car, you got a dime a gallon to spare for poor old Long Island Association Chairman Jim LoRocca?

Poor Jimmy, you see, runs the L.I.A., the master chamber of commerce of business and industry on Long Island. Jimmy and the poor boys at the Long Island Association have decided something that you and I have known for years, our roads are a mess. As they fly over in their helicopters heading for home, they see long streams of cars and trucks almost parked on the expressway and now, in their invincible wisdom, have decided that we should chip in an extra dime a gallon as a gasoline tax to build new roads.

Come on, Jimmy, it's been bad enough that you have persisted with your insistence that the nuclear power plant should be opened. Now you have the audacity to go to the same people who have opposed it and say that we should chip in ten cents per gallon to build new roads. That is just plain bull.

There is no question our roads are a horrendous mess. As Paul Townsend pointed out last week in the Long Island Business, the spokesperson for the Long Island Association, they are the worst in New York State.

We have almost ten times the number of vehicle registrations per square mile as is found in New York State. We have over twice the number of vehicle registrations versus miles of road work that is found any place else in the state.

Those of us who are able to get off Long Island go upstate or to other metropolitan areas throughout the nation and have observed that the roadways surrounding these areas are far larger and better than Long Island's, moving traffic quickly and efficiently.

Long Islanders have already paid more than their fair share of transportation taxes, funds that were sup-

posed to be used to build roads, compared to the rest of the state. Transportation taxes are paid through registration fees, and as we indicated, we pay two and a half times the registration fees per square mile than any other place in the state. We pay road taxes through fuel consumption. A look at the state records indicates that, per square mile, we consume more than twice the fuel, and therefore, pay twice the amount in taxes than other residents in the state. The same goes for general taxation, corporate and personal. On a per family income basis, we pay a disproportionate amount in state taxes than is paid anywhere else. We also pay a disproportionate amount of taxes to pay back the transportation bonds that were supposed to build new roads, but haven't here on Long Island.

When it has come down to allocating funds for development of road networks, Long Island has been shortchanged. The reason is quite simple. We have had state delegates who have refused to act as a group. They have made their alliances along party lines and the leadership of these parties seldom, if ever, come to Long Island and don't give a damn about Long Island's problems. For the State Legislature or the Governor to even think about considering imposing a new tax of ten cents per gallon on Long Island motorists is suicidal. It defies logic and would be one of the most regressive taxes ever conceived to ruin a region.

What we need is dynamic, tough leadership out of our Assembly and Senate delegations. Standing up, unified, fighting vigorously for not only our fair share, but retroactive realignment, passing back to Long Island the transportation dollars that have disproportionately been taken from us.

Jimmy, get the Long Island As-

sociation to lead the fight for that and the people on Long Island might have some respect for the Long Island Association. It's about time that the L.I.A. realized there is more to Long Island than business. If people can't afford to live here, in a safe environment, free from the worries of an accident at a nuclear power plant,

and cockamamie taxes, there will be no workforce to run the business you draw your membership from, which provides your paycheck. We don't need more taxes. We need more concern for the people, from the state, and from the L.I.A.

And why not?

## Caught In a Dilemma

New York's Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat, is caught in a dilemma. He is the ranking minority leader on the Senate Oversight Committee on Nuclear Power and, also, the ranking minority leader on the Water Resources Committee. By December 1 he must choose which committee he wishes to head on January 1, 1987, when the Democrats take control of the United States Senate.

Moynihan has been deeply involved in water resource and is said to favor chairing that important committee. But, for Long Islanders and the nation, we need him as the head of the Senate Oversight Committee on Nuclear Power.

Moynihan is a pro-safety nuclear person. He has been alarmed and appalled by the actions of the N.R.C. and their attempts to open nuclear power plants, particularly Shoreham, disregarding the safety, health and welfare issues of the citizens who surround the plant. He has spoken out strongly on these concerns.

The current chairman of this committee is Senator Allen Simpson. He is strongly pro-nuclear and has been virtually a dictator, quenching any opposition to reform the N.R.C. or demand that they act as a regulatory agency. Simpson, thankfully, will lose the chairmanship of this committee because the Republicans have lost control of the Senate, and a Democrat will replace him.

Moynihan could accept this assignment as chairman, but in doing so, he would lose the opportunity of being the chairman of the Water Resources Committee as the rules of the Senate do not allow a Senator to chair more than one committee.

Senator Moynihan must weigh what is most important to the people he represents, both in his state and in the nation. From our involvement with the N.R.C., we see control of the N.R.C. as one of the most pressing problems immediately facing the nation. The industry has been without regulation and, under the administration's guidelines, the N.R.C. has become a solid proponent of expansion of the industry. As a proponent, the N.R.C. has become the nuclear industry's salesman rather

than its regulator. It has freely changed its own rules and regulations which were established to protect the public. These changes were made to accommodate the industry while disregarding the safety of the public.

At Shoreham, the N.R.C. is prepared to accept an emergency evacuation plan that has no basis in fact. It's a paper plan that has never been tried or tested, nor can it be. The plan is based upon the assumption that a private, profit-making corporation can assume the duties of the government and has the authority to become a police state unto itself. This is clearly unconstitutional, but that's not stopping the N.R.C. from bending over backwards to accept the sham.

Moynihan's decision is a tough one, because the protection of water is a critical issue also. What we should ask Senator Moynihan in making his decision is, what good will all our efforts to protect our pure water be if there is an accident like Chernobyl here in the United States? An accident that spews out radiation and contaminates the water for centuries. An accident of the Chernobyl consequence could happen at Shoreham. If it does, water will be contaminated from Boston to Washington and as far north as Vermont. Water will be undrinkable for a century within a 70 mile radius of the plant.

The choice is clear to us. Senator Moynihan should choose the Nuclear Oversight Committee and become the aggressive chairman he is capable of being. Through his tenure, the N.R.C. can be returned to being a regulatory agency. He can get rid of, once and for all, its hidden agenda to promote the advancement of nuclear power here in the United States.

We encourage you, as the Senator's constituents, to write to him urging him to become chairman of the Nuclear Committee. If you don't have time to write, clip the coupon below and send it to him today. The address is: Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, United States Senate, Room 464, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

And why not?

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## Dear Senator Moynihan:

As a voter in New York State, as a constituent of yours, I request that you accept the Chairmanship of the

Senate Committee on Oversight of the N.R.C. for the good of all United States citizens.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_



## Bad Politics Makes Worst Government

Seven years ago when Peter Cohalan sought out the County Executive's position, he was fond of saying that "good politics makes good government."

Cohalan became County Executive because of the efforts of a group of people who were tired of bad government in Suffolk County. Many of these people came from diverse backgrounds, most of them out of the political inner-circle. They were sick and tired of the scandal and corruption that had soiled Suffolk County for too long. They saw rampant waste and duplication of government causing horrendous, burdensome taxes that were driving senior citizens out of their homes. They saw political favors being bought and sold openly and arrogantly.

Peter Cohalan was supported by this group to become County Executive because it was felt that he had a clean image, was a successful supervisor with a good track record, and would not allow his government to go the way that Suffolk County's government had gone in the past.

For the first two years of his administration, he tried very hard and was the County Executive of the people. But then his political ambitions got in his way. Some of those to whom he had pledged to clean out of government got his ear and convinced him that could be Governor. To become Governor he needed a solid Republican organization behind him. To have a solid Republican organization, he had to compromise, and he took back into the fold many of those who had run the county for their own benefit. Once the deal was completed, those that supported him were either conveniently exorcised from Cohalan, or just drifted away in disgust.

Cohalan didn't become Governor or Lieutenant Governor. Instead, he was left being influenced by those he had pledged to remove from government. Because of their influence, and their lack of judgement, Cohalan faced an almost assured loss if he ran for re-election as County Executive in 1987. To avoid this embarrassment and political oblivion, Cohalan did what his daddy always wanted him to do, become a judge.

On January 1 he will become a Supreme Court Judge. Between now and then he will resign as County Executive. He leaves behind as a legacy what appears to be a horrendous financial mess, a budget that is severely out of wack, and a spending plan that breaches the cap placed on the budget by the voters.

Cohalan's pending departure leaves the county with several options: under the County Charter, the Chief Deputy County Executive, Frank Jones, could assume the reins

of government for the balance of Cohalan's term, which runs to the end of 1987. Actually, Jones has been running the county for the past several months anyway, so moving Jones up to the top post would offer a continuation of government. Or, Cohalan could, at the direction of the county leader, replace Jones with the leader's political choice who would then automatically become county executive when Cohalan resigns.

Another option is a special election to fill Cohalan's vacated seat. This could be called by a two-thirds vote of the county legislature. In this event, a special election would be held within thirty days, an election that would cost the taxpayers of the county \$500,000 to conduct.

If a special election is called, nominating conventions will be held by the political parties. Theoretically, the committeemen of the parties would cast their votes for the nominee of their choice, and that nominee who receives the most votes would be the candidate in the special election. That's the way it works theoretically, but in truth the actual decisions are made by the county political leaders.

Since most town leaders and committeemen have their heads in the patronage trough, with county jobs themselves or for members of their families, or through lucrative county contracts, they buckle to demands for support of the county leaders' choices or give up their votes in the form of proxies which are then cast by the leadership.

Democracy would be better served if the use of proxies was eliminated at such conventions, and if the committeemen could vote in secret without fear of political retaliation. But because this would take control out of the hands of the political leaders, this is not the case and is not likely to happen.

Therefore, a special election will not give the people an opportunity to name their next county executive. Instead, the voters, at a cost of a half million dollars, can only choose between hand-picked choices of the political leaders. They will be the candidates of the political bosses, owned lock, stock and barrel and expected to do the bidding of these bosses, who, because they are not covered under any law which prevents them from doing so, can and often do, sell their influence with lucrative contracts and special considerations for the highest bidders.

The candidate who wins the special election for county executive will be absolutely under the thumb of the political bosses, for he or she will no more than be seated in office when he or she will be facing

re-election the same year. The winner will need the bosses to raise the money needed, more than a million dollars in this day and age, for a campaign in the general election next November, and even before that in primary elections which are sure to be scheduled next June.

The crime of all this is candidates who would make a good county executive are not even being considered. Candidates such as Southampton Supervisor Martin Lang, or Islip Supervisor Michael LoGrande, or Chief Surrogate Ernest Signorelli, people who have proven administrative abilities and in Signorelli's case, county-wide appeal. On the Democratic side, Smithtown Supervisor Patrick Vecchio or Assemblyman Paul Harenberg, both capable prospective candidates, appear to have little chance because they are a mite too politically inde-

pendent for the political boss of that party.

Unfortunately, without a primary which would put the choice in the hands of the people, the real winners will be the politicians who have benefited so handsomely in the past at the taxpayers' expense and will do so in the future with a hand-picked successor to Cohalan.

Taxpayers might well be better off with the first option, with Jones picking up the reins of government until the ultimate Cohalan successor can be picked by the voters through the primary and general election processes. This would not only save the voters a half million dollars, but would take the selection process out of reach of the political leaders and put it in the hands of the voters where it belongs.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Thank you for your commitment'

Dear Mr. Grasso:

We were happy to see the "On Target" column published in Suffolk Life. Already, we have received a call praising the column and asking that we write about the caller's organization.

We explain to everyone we interview that Suffolk Life is publishing this series as a community service and we speak of your wide circulation in Suffolk County and your deep commitment to justice for county residents. I personally believe Suffolk Life is the sole vehicle in the county seeking to correct the issues adversely affecting us, and I have con-

veyed this belief to the agency directors. In doing so, I have specifically mentioned both you and Mr. Willmott by name. Everyone I have spoken with is delighted with the idea of an article about their organization and I have heard nothing but favorable comments about Suffolk Life.

On behalf of Citibank, and personally, I want to express my thanks to you and Mr. Willmott for your continual commitment to the residents of Suffolk County.

Sincerely,  
Elaine S. Polin  
Citibank Public Affairs

### 'Project poses threat to community'

Open Letter to the Town and Planning Boards  
Dear Mr. Janoski:

At the August 9 and September 20, 1986 meetings of the General Membership of the Herod Point Civic Association, the subject of the Sound Breeze housing development was discussed at great length.

At this time, the Herod Point Civic Association wishes to go on record as being unequivocally opposed to the project as it has been proposed. The impact upon the community at large will be severe. The aspects of environment, community safety, traffic, fire, police and school facilities, as well as the existing

amenities of recreation, must be addressed. In addition, no one has taken into consideration the cumulative effect of this and other subdivisions in one residential area, namely Wading River. At this time it appears that one small town will take the burden of the impact of some 500+ residential units. We don't know of any other community in Riverhead which has ever been exposed to such a threat to their well being and way of life.

Yours truly,  
Robert Skinner  
President  
Herod Point Civic Association

### 'Fire Service wants water rights'

To the Editor of Suffolk Life.

Dear Sir,

Please consider the printing of the enclosed letter. As we feel that it deserves the consideration of an acknowledgement or response from the supervisor and town board. We are very concerned with the welfare and fire safety for the Town of Southold for the future. We thank you for your consideration.

Southold Town Fire Districts Officers Association  
Henry F. Moisa, Sec.

Dear Supervisor Murphy and Town Board Members:

The situation concerning water rights in the Town of Southold is of much concern of the Fire Districts of the town. The Fire Service considers this most valued resource a primary necessity not only for fire protection, but the

most vital asset for daily existence for all the people in the Town of Southold.

The Southold Town Fire Districts Officers Association would very much like to have the water rights situation clarified as to the present status. This association is very much opposed to giving up those rights to the Suffolk County Water Authority.

This association would like to be apprised and involved in any developments of this nature or any actions contemplated which is of vital interest to the fire protection in the Town of Southold.

We thank you for past considerations and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Southold Town Fire Districts Officers Association  
Henry F. Moisa, Secretary

### 'Taxpayer speaks out'

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter so that someone could explain to me why so many people are still on welfare when in my town alone (Centereach), there isn't a "fast food" or "supermarket" that isn't advertising for help. I'm a senior citizen and I was never too proud to work for the minimum wage and do jobs I never did before.

I also want to know why when they get free food stamps they are allowed to get cash back when it isn't their money to begin with. I'm a taxpayer so I feel I have a right to know where my money goes.

Something better be done fast as I'm not alone in feeling as I do.

Name withheld on request



## Show Restraint

We, as Suffolk County voters in the recent election, put a cap on the county budget. It can only rise by four per cent, or the rate of inflation, except in emergencies when a piercing of the cap would require a two-thirds approval by the county legislators.

Suffolk County's spending in the past has far exceeded the rate of inflation or the rate of growth in the county. As a result, county taxes have gone up even though our assessed valuation has been increasing beyond anyone's wildest expectations.

The county legislature recently sent back to the county executive his budget proposal and told him to cut it to meet the voters' mandate. True to fashion, the county executive cut those programs that are most people sensitive, abolishing 241 filled police positions and reduction of precinct patrols, health care, drug programs, the proposed closing of two golf courses and two beaches, elimination of 27 vector control positions to affect the "south shore only," the closing of two social service centers, all county dredging, and the list goes on.

Cohalan, in his lame duck days as a county executive, is playing pure hard ball, better put, gutter politics. There is plenty of fat in the county budget. Cohalan's own office is ripe for the picking. But he fashioned his cuts not on those things which could be expendable without serious impact on the public, but rather in such a way to create a public clamor. It has already started.

Cohalan has had a habit of rewarding those political hacks who had supported him by making them deputy county executives. A typical example came after the voters rejected Pat Heaney of Hampton Bays as their legislator. Cohalan appointed him deputy county executive at \$48,780 a year, with an office, a secretary and a car, a new position that was not needed and was a waste of our money. We don't mean to pick

on Heaney alone, as he is only one of a whole host of others who were given jobs in the administration as payment for political favors.

The golf courses have been ripe with patronage. Jobs were created that had no purpose except as a political favor. These jobs can easily be eliminated and the courses could be kept open. Or better yet, the courses could be leased out to private entrepreneurs who could charge for the services provided at reasonable rates and still make a profit.

As to the cutbacks in vector control, Cohalan knows full well these cannot be permanently implemented. Let the first infusion of mosquitos hit an area and it will be declared a health menace, and the county will be forced to respond. His proposal to affect the south shore only, where the mosquito problem has been the worst, is a prime example of his devious scheme.

The county is in a total mess. Cohalan and Company have persistently thrown good money after bad. The legislators, by caving in to special interests, have, in the past, approved expenditures they shouldn't have. The cap was put on the budget by the legislature with the intention of forcing them to act prudently. They now must. Cohalan, likewise, must act prudently rather than recklessly, trying to work up the residents of the county so that they will demand an increase in spending.

We, as taxpayers, should demand that the county live within its budget, and not be like pigs led to slaughter, oinking, oinking all the way insisting we have to have every project that is proposed to be cut.

Cohalan is depending upon you becoming aroused by his insensitive, instead of sensible, cutbacks in government. It's a game he is playing. He is depending upon your reaction and demanding that his cuts be reinstated. There is an incredible amount of fat in Cohalan's budget, it should be removed with statesman-like skill rather than a political

bulldozer that Cohalan is trying to manipulate.

Come on Peter, act like a states-

man, even if you are a lame duck. And why not?

## Will The Public Have A Right-Of-Way

President Reagan has signed a bill allocating funding for the rebuilding of the beach on Dune Road which has been washed out on numerous occasions.

The bill allocates 56 million dollars for this project. The state and the county will contribute funds as well. The town is setting up a special tax district whereby the landowners in the area will be assessed a small portion of the cost to retain the build-up once it is accomplished.

The controversy surrounding this project stems from the original installation of the jetties to the east of the affected area. It originally had been planned to jetty all the way to Moriches Inlet. The project was stopped and the homes to the west of the jetties became threatened. Some were washed away as the natural sand flow that replenishes the beach was halted at the jetties and the area west of the jetties, deprived of the natural build-up of sand, lost beach area.

The original project, like the current scheme, called upon the various governments to fund the project. Needless to say, this funding comes directly from taxes. We raised the

question then and we raise the question now, if public monies are to be used for this project, should not the public have direct access to the beach that is being protected? To put the jetties into place and to do the repair work, the government has had to acquire right-of-ways from Dune Road to the beach. These right-of-ways, although not large, would permit up to a half-dozen cars to park, and would give citizens access to the beach.

Under the original deal the public was banned from using these right-of-ways because of a deal made between the landowners whose property was being protected and the county government. Property owners insisted it was fine for the public to pay for the erosion control, but not to be allowed on the beach. The deal stunk then and still stinks today.

We hope the current project will provide for public access to the right-of-ways. This is only fair and just. If the public is paying for the project they must have access to the beach and be able to utilize and enjoy it.

And why not?

## The More The Merrier

Numerous candidates have expressed interest in seeking the position of county executive when it is vacated by Cohalan. Most of the better ones are being excluded by the party leaders who are frantically trying to make their own deals.

An old friend of ours, former County Republican leader Anthony Prudenti, brought to our attention the fact that deals being made by the leaders need not necessarily preclude the public from having a choice. For a candidate to run in a special election, they only need 1,500 signatures to become a full fledged candidate on the ballot on Election Day. This means that any of the candidates who are seeking the position only have to gather 1,500 registered voters' signatures on a petition, select a name for a party and be qualified to be voted upon by the general electorate.

Obtaining 1,500 signatures is not an impossibility. A handful of supporters could meet this goal with relatively little work. If the candidates who are being denied the majority party endorsement were to have their names placed on the ballot, the public would have the choice of the best candidate.

It is our understanding that candidates who wish to run have ten days to obtain the signatures. The campaign itself will not last more than 30 days as this is all that is allowed by law. A short campaign would be an inexpensive one and a return to old-fashioned democracy where the best man wins rather than the election being bought by the candidate with the most money.

This could be a very interesting race.

And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE

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### General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

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