

Regulating the spinning wheel

The bureaucrats in Port Jefferson Village have summoned some of the downtown village merchants on criminal charges for violating an obscure village regulation pertaining to the selling and hawking of goods on the street.

The center of the controversy is a yarn shop that displays an antique spinning wheel during good weather. Tourists and visitors to this historic village are given a daily demonstration of yarn making. Other merchants along the street use the

sidewalks to sell some of their wares as is done in many resort and tourist communities.

Sidewalk sales and displays often add color and charm to resort areas. For the Village of Port Jefferson to ban utilization of this asset is tragic. The timing is particularly poor now that Long Island is making a concerted effort to renew their tourist trade.

Anything that adds color and the charm to a community should be encouraged not discouraged. The

laws under which the village merchants are being prosecuted are vague and leave loopholes wide enough to walk an elephant through. They supposedly are designed to stop the free-wheeling hawking of carnival-type vendors. The village merchants hardly fall into this category.

Unfortunately the village actions are typical of the over-regulation and zeal that makes it difficult to do business or to enjoy Long Island.

Why have we tolerated the ex-

change of common sense for picky regulations? Did we know we were giving up our quality of life to live in an over-regulated environment or was this all done without us being aware of it?

We hope the Village of Port Jefferson rethinks their position and acts intelligently by withdrawing the charges against the merchant. And why not?

Initiative and Referendum passes, maybe

In the wee hours of the morning, the Suffolk County Legislature succumbed and passed a local law which may place on the ballot this November a proposition asking for your approval of Initiative and Referendum for Suffolk County.

We say it "may" appear on the ballot. It looks like the politicians may still have one more trick up their sleeves to defeat the will of the people.

There seems to be a grey area whether yesterday's actions were done in time to have this referendum appear on this November's ballot.

It is ironic this measure first passed the county legislature over six months ago. It passed the Assembly in May, the Senate in June and was courageously signed into law by Governor Carey in July. The county legislature has been fiddling around since then trying to avoid having to take a stand on this issue.

King Klein has been vehemently opposed to giving the people the right to directly petition their government for changes. Yet Klein last Tuesday night agreed to sign a certificate of necessity allowing the legislature to vote without a normal two week wait.

Klein may have pulled another slight of hand trick. His legal beagle, Prince Pachman, has issued a legal opinion that the issue was not passed in time for a November vote. It is more than a coincidence that Pachman's legal opinions normally are developed to serve Klein's politics.

If the politicians are successful in keeping Initiative and Referendum

off the ballot this November, you will once again be denied your constitutional right to vote.

A special election could possibly be held at a later date, but it would cost, depending upon whose estimate you accept, from \$75,000 to \$250,000. It is an unnecessary expense caused by the County Executive and the legislators, who are opposed to your right to Initiative laws and having them enacted through referendum.

Last Tuesday night, the legislature heard senior citizens angry over the status of the Initiative and Referendum laws.

What they saw was not so much anger, but utter frustration and contempt for people who they had elected and frustration is widespread.

It is not a symptom of old age. It is felt by young and old alike. It is deep-seeded and not an emotion of the moment.

The residents of Suffolk County have had it with the politicians and bureaucrats who have played games with their lives. Any further denial of the people's right to vote on Initiative and Referendum will most assuredly guarantee a wholesale elimination of those in power.

The politicians better start reading the signs. The people have had it and will not put up with them anymore.

The county legislature and the county executive better get off their sweet duffs now and find a way to make sure Initiative and Referendum are on the ballot this November. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Readers' Opinion

'The power of the 4th estate'

Dave:

Thanks for running that magnificent story on our tax assessment plight. Naturally, I hope (and believe) that it will help me obtain a reduction.

Your story also shows the power of the 4th estate. Previously, reluctant neighbors got angry, and filed grievances. About 25 persons called me. Jason Allen processed nearly 1,000 grievances.

These efforts have impressed the dedicated Board of Assessment Review members and Mr. Friskey stated in a press release that he will act positively toward the 3,000 grievances.

Naturally, E.V. Sullivan continues to act

obtuse and immorally. Grievances that taxpayers mailed in to his office, prior to July 18, are being released slowly, and in small numbers. But it's exactly what we've come to expect that arrogant, indentured bureaucrat to do. And he's Brookhaven's assessor until 1984.

If I don't get a reduction to \$2,860, my previous public efforts are going to look like dust matter. And I know Suffolk Life (notice that Newsday gave Brookhaven not a word about its Grievance Day), will be doing everything in its power to aid the appressed Suffolk County taxpayer.

Thank You
Jim Mattimore

'I would like to reply'

Dear Editor:

I would like to reply to a recent letter signed Oldtimer in your column entitled, Reader's Opinion.

It is quite obvious from the gentleman's presentation, that Mr. Oldtimer is a successfully retired businessman who probably has not had any personal experiences with labor unions.

The gentleman is, of course, entitled to his opinions and he very articulately expressed them. However, the other side of the proverbial coin should and must be presented in order that the public at large may see an issue in its proper perspective.

The first thing we must recognize is the fact that a union is not comprised of some obscure mass, but people. People who pay taxes and make purchases of articles of manufacture. These people are known as consumers.

It is also a recognized fact, documented by government economists as well as economists, in the private sector, that prices not wages increase the inflationary spiral. When the cost of living rises above the con-

sumers purchasing ability, the consumer is certainly justified and indeed must, to keep the economy somewhat stabilized and moving, ask for an increase in his or her purchasing power. If the consumer cannot keep up with inflation, where would the bankers and manufacturers be? In general, "Big Business".

Lastly, as far as the "Tail Wagging the Dog" and "Killing the Golden Goose," let us not delve into generalities. The only reason the tail is wagging the dog is plain and simple. People need more money to survive, not just live today. Finally, no astute union leader is foolish enough to put business out of business. After all, how could he be the head of a union, if there is no union. Killing the Golden Goose, would be after all, Cooking his Goose, so to speak. There is an old maxim among unionists, "Never take more than you can carry. Remember, you must go to the well, time and again." After all, that's what keeps us in business.

Ed O'Brien
Long Island Typographical Union

'Please keep us informed'

Dear Editor,

The people in this area just found out, thanks to the Suffolk Life, that there is a proposal for a 30 unit subdivision of low income, rent subsidized housing at the southeast corner of Peconic Street and Pond Road in Ronkonkoma. This proposal has already gone to the State Housing and Community Renewal Division for approval.

There is extensive community negative reaction against this proposal. Petitions have been already going around. I started the petition 10 minutes after reading your article.

The entire neighborhood is against this proposal.

From your article I understand Mr.

Charles Hogg, assistant director of management information and research for the HUD Division of Housing and Community Renewal Two World Trade Center, NY 10047 required evidence of public support. This support will never be given by the people in this area or the people in the Connetquot School District.

Please keep us informed on this subject. You have the entire area very concerned about this proposal.

Thank you.
Very truly yours,
Lynda Lee Judge
Ronkonkoma

SUFFOLK LIFE

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Ronkonkoma

Coram/Middle Island
Selden/Centerach
3 Village/Port Jefferson
Rocky Point

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Is RCA a Trojan Horse?

Governor Carey announced last Thursday RCA's \$20 million gift of 7,100 acres in Rocky Point and the Town of Southampton to the state of New York.

RCA, in donating this property, will receive tax benefits to compensate the corporation for its generosity. The people of the state of New York are acquiring this enormous parcel of land, which includes what has come to be called pine barrens, to be preserved forevermore for ecological purposes.

The taxpayers of Brookhaven and the Town of Southampton, where the property lies, and the taxpayers of the County of Suffolk, will have to absorb another huge chunk of land being taken off the tax rolls.

Carey has promised to push for legislation reducing the impact on the school districts being affected by the loss of the real estate.

Acquisitions, gifts and donations of land for governmental and non-profit use on Eastern Long Island are quickly reaching frightening

proportions. Between the land that has been taken for preservation as parks, agricultural districts, as well as churches, schools and beaches, the tax base of our communities is being whittled down drastically.

How much more can the taxpayers afford to absorb? Each time land is taken off the tax rolls, the tax burden this land formerly carried is transferred to the remaining landowners, causing an increase on everyone else's tax rate.

Preservation of agricultural districts, pine barrens and fresh water supplies are important for the quality of our life, but, like anything else, when we overdo it, the quality of life itself changes. And when change is too rapid, chaos prevails.

Those we have placed in high office should put a limit on the amount of acreage that can be taken off the tax rolls or plan a system of reimbursement to the town, county and school districts affected by the taking of these parcels off the tax rolls. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

So Carey was responsible

Last week, Nassau County residents submitted thousands of names on a petition requesting the Nassau Legislature to place on the ballot a proposition calling for a reduction in taxes. It was a stormy meeting filled with political intrigue.

The board turned down the taxpayers' request.

Nassau County Executive Francis Purcell stated the proposition and the petitions were a ploy of backers of Governor Carey to help in his bid for re-election.

We imagine Nassau GOP leader Joe Margiotta went through the ceiling when he heard the leading politicians from Nassau County stating, in public, that Governor Carey, a Democrat, was behind this move to cut local taxes.

We do not normally speak out on Nassau County government, but since this points out how poorly politicians throughout the state perceive the mood of the public, the affair warrants comment. The public, from coast to coast, is demanding a reduction in their taxes. There is a very live and viable revolt in progress. The rebels come from every rank, creed and color. They want less government, less services and less taxes.

We guess out of the thousands of signatures on the petition presented in

Nassau, probably one-half of them were Republicans who normally could be counted on to support the GOP candidate.

Carey does not need a campaign manager in Nassau as long as he has the Republican county executive labeling the petitioners as Carey people. He, in effect, is certifying that Carey is in favor of the people's right to petition their government for reductions in taxes and the Republicans are opposed to it.

Carey has already demonstrated his belief in the people's right to petition their government by signing the Initiative and Referendum law. That law enables the Suffolk County Legislature to set up the mechanism whereby county residents can put their own ideas on the ballot.

Unless candidates in this November's election can convincingly sell the public the idea that they are in favor of real tax cuts, caps on local and state spending, Proposition 13's, and resolution 14's, they are in trouble with the electorate.

The voters have one significant issue on their minds, survival. It's down to a point where it's survival of the politicians or themselves. Self-survival is one of our strongest instincts. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"His name was Maggott"

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for your article "His Name was Maggott." In an area with an ever-increasing number of stray dogs and cats, perhaps your article will 'hit home base' with many vacationers and residents. I sincerely hope so.

But the problem, and sorrow, really doesn't begin with Maggot: It begins with Maggie. The problem starts with people who have dogs and cats as pets but do not meet their responsibility as pet owners. These owners feel that spaying and neutering is either an unnecessary procedure or just too plain expensive to bother about.

When people take on the responsibility of an animal, they also take on the responsibility of seeing that the animal does not add to a population of already starving and often abused stray animals. There are many animal shelters and clinics where one can obtain reasonable animal birth control. In my opinion, if you cannot afford to, or care to, take the time and effort to have your animal properly spayed or neutered, you should not have the animal. Some people obviously do not believe that animal spaying and neutering is part of your responsibility as an owner, I believe it is.

I cannot remember how many times I have stood in front of stores with abandoned kittens and puppies trying to find them a

home. I have tried to give people information on neutering and spaying and also where they can bring strays they cannot care for. There are shelters on Long Island that do not destroy any animal they receive. There are also the pounds, and even though it sounds cruel, perhaps it is better to let the animal be put to a merciful death rather than allow him to go on reproducing more kittens or puppies, some of which will ultimately suffer abuse or starve.

It is also important to mention here how quickly people will adopt a male cat or dog with the attitude that the animal does not need to be neutered because he obviously will not bring home a litter. But there will be a puppy or a kitten somewhere, sometime who will most likely suffer and possibly starve, because of this owners unconcerned attitude.

This letter may be as futile as all the other attempts made to make people aware of how serious the animal over population problem is. If nothing else, it is a plea to please care, to care enough to find out about what you can do to stop the suffering of millions of kittens and puppies every year. As I read on a very appropriate poster recently, "Please don't let them be born just to die." Please.

A concerned dog and cat owner,
S.M. Vanden Heuvel
Shirley

Defending tennis charges

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Your editorial, An Infuriating Double Change, brings up an interesting point, but you should have done a little research before making your statement.

First, you should look at the budget and see where the money for tennis courts goes. Charging for the rental of courts keeps the school tennis courts (which by the way are the best school courts on the East End) self sufficient. The money goes towards upkeep of the courts and payment of the salaries of those court attendants.

Second, Monday through Friday, those eight tennis courts are free for anyone and everyone. The weekends are the only time

charged and is the simplest way to solve the problem. The reason for the \$12 rate is so the school courts do not undercut other tennis establishments, that pay school taxes.

Lastly, you spoke of irate taxpayers, well I for one, have seen these irate taxpayers and witnessed their actions. They've challenged court attendants, curse and threaten the attendants and many times had the girls there in tears. These are rational attitudes? If the people want, take out their anger, tell them to attend a school board meeting, not threaten those who must enforce the rules.

And that, sir, is why not.

Sincerely
Ray Overton

Irate over seniors' budget gripes

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I feel I have to sound off after the crying of the senior citizens, "We'll turn all propositions of your school budget down. Our kids are grown and married, why should we pay higher taxes, we're only on fixed income."

But you never hear how they save over \$500 a month. It's true. The husband and wife each collect Social Security, then, many have pensions, also. Most of this is tax free. Their expenses are something else. They get half tax bills, we pay their fair share, buses, schools and many merchants give senior citizens free services. Others give great discounts. These so called fixed incomes bring in more than \$800 monthly. There are many young people with small children that just about make that much.

Food for seniors is nothing compared to a family of 4 with the same income.

These senior citizens hardly put anything into Social Security, yet they reap the cream. A person with a small family, at the age of 40, and worked since he was 16, and will continue to work until he's a senior citizen will never get out of Social Security what he put in. This is a fact.

In a nutshell senior citizens, we, nor the world, owe you a thing, so stop being spiteful to us and enjoy life and be happy, and remember someday we will be there, where you now are, and we won't be so cruel (we hope.) and maybe we won't stash and cry we're only on fixed incomes, because you can fool some of the people, etc, etc, etc.

Name Withheld

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Mattituck
Riverhead

Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village
Westhampton
Moriches
Mastic, Shirley

Bellport
Medford
Patchogue
Coram
Selden
Centereach

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Comptroller, the most important race

If you ask the average person about the job of comptroller, they look at you with a blank stare. A comptroller, in reality, is a professional bookkeeper. The average person's opinion of a bookkeeper is that it is colorless, mundane, and not where the action is.

This may have been true fifty or one hundred years ago, but in today's world of high finance, the position of comptroller is the most integral part of any business, and the one that truly determines both figuratively and literally whether a company makes or loses money. They are the watchdogs and the balancers of the budget.

Choosing a candidate for the job of comptroller in Suffolk County will be the most important decision you will make as a voter in this election, because the county's new budget will top \$600 million.

A good comptroller should be a super-watchdog with the ability to audit, to investigate, and to check into every penny the county spends. The comptroller is the one person who unilaterally can say "no" to spending by the County Executive and the legislature. He has it within his power to investigate and substantiate every contract and every expenditure made. He also is the person who is directly responsible for floating bonds, and obtaining the best interest rates for these bonds. In this aspect, the difference in the caliber of person chosen by the voters could mean either the saving or the waste of

millions of dollars in interest.

It has been estimated that the county could have saved millions of dollars if the comptroller had been better advised and watched more carefully the offering and sale of the Southwest Sewer District bonds.

Another area where the comptroller could be of enormous help to the taxpayer is if he or she is free to control the banking of county funds without being forced to consider which banks are owed political favors. Suffolk County has wasted millions of dollars of taxpayers' money by allowing their cash to sit in checking accounts drawing no interest when the money could have been deposited in savings, certificates of deposit, or money funds until needed.

The comptroller also can organize his office to expedite the payment of bills. Presently contractors know when they bid for county work, there may be delays of up to six months before they are reimbursed for the services and goods provided. Businesses take this knowledge into consideration when they bid. They add the cost of borrowing money for the projected length of time between the time they provide the services and the time they get paid to their estimates. As a result, the county ends up paying higher prices for services than they should.

With so many questions unanswered about the financing of the Southwest Sewer District, the

irregularities that have been suggested, which are now being investigated by the F.B.I. as well as numerous other agencies, it is of the utmost importance that the person we choose for this office be the very best.

We urge the voters of Suffolk to pay particular heed to the candidates seeking this office. Investigate their qualifications, their motivation, and

their ability to perform as a watchdog over your hard-earned tax dollars. Suffolk Life this year is paying close attention to this race.

We have interviewed the candidates for the position. After thorough evaluation and more investigation, we will make our recommendations based upon the facts. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'Give it a chance'

Dear Editor,

I would like to clarify several points in your September 6, 1978 editorial about New York Telephone initiating Timed Message Rate Service for Suffolk business customers on October 1, 1978.

Business customers, as a class, use telephone service to a much greater extent than residence customers, particularly during "peak usage" periods. With flat rate, the monthly charge for local service remains constant regardless of the number of local calls or their duration. If the charges for service are not sensitive to usage, then the additional costs caused by heavy users are spread among all customers. In effect, other business and residence customers pick up a portion of the bill for these "heavy usage" businesses. By making timed message rate service mandatory for all business customers, the costs will be passed along to those who make heavier use of our facilities. Since charges for timed message rate service more accurately measure individual customer usage the result will be that heavier users of local service will pay more while light users will pay less.

While approximately two-thirds of Suffolk business customers already have message rate service by choice, it is still expected that a majority of the remaining one-third presently on flat service will pay less for local service under the timed message rate service plan. This estimated reduction in cost is based upon a preliminary survey of upstate customers for whom timed message rate service became standard in January of this year. For your information, overtime charges on one-unit calls in the primary area do not begin until after five minutes under timed message rate service and studies indicate that about 88 per cent of one unit calls made by New York Telephone customers last five minutes or less. In addition, the basic monthly charge for timed message rate service is several dollars per month less expensive than flat rate.

The introduction of timed message rate service reminds me of our introduction, a

couple of years ago, of the Directory Assistance Credit and Charge Plan. This plan, too, was designed to have heavy users of service pick up a fair share of the costs. Much was made of the fact that customers who made seven or more calls a month would have higher bills. Since then, however, more than 92 per cent of the residence customers and 82 per cent of the business customers have experienced a net savings. . . . and a net savings of \$23 million at that!

On balance, the timed message rate service plan seems sensible and equitable to us. As future call volumes demand additional expenditures for central office equipment, these costs will be borne by the heavy users, rather than by all customers irrespective of usage. I believe, once all the evidence is in, that the majority of our business customers will be satisfied with this change. I think we should give it a chance.

W.S. Wetherer
Southampton

ED NOTE: Giving the tele co. a chance is like putting a temporary tax into effect. You never get rid of it or the charge no matter how regressive it is. It was a rip off then as it is now. As we said in the editorial, the P.S.C. allowance of this is another good reason "not to be business in N.Y." unless you're a utility.

'An award'

Taxpayers and Residents of Suffolk County:
An award to Mr. Willmott of Suffolk Life for his unending and ceaseless work to help lower our taxes.

An award to Denis Hurley for his insight as to the needs of the East End and his resolution to end the legislators, who only wish to fill their own pockets with our dollars.

Due to the complete understanding of our Supervisors and Mr. Willmott of the Suffolk Life who carefully watch the expenditures of our tax dollars, suggest you carry the following in your pocket at the November elections and vote "NO" for the following seeking re-election:

Marty Feldman - Lindenhurst
Floyd Linton - Port Jefferson
John Foley - Patchogue
Fred Giese - Hauppauge
Joseph Bassano - Lindenhurst
Michael Grant - Hauppauge
William Richards - Smithtown
John O'Neil - Huntington Station
Anthony Noto - North Babylon
Jane Devine - Huntington

Ask yourselves "what have they done for us and our taxes?"

They are not interested in our rights or pocketbooks, but only their own and know nothing on what goes on on the East End.

Be sure to watch Suffolk Life for Mr. Willmott's and Denis Hurley's remarks and for their unending and tiring efforts on our behalf, to save the East End and millions of dollars, and that the residents live in a democracy and choose the government they wish to live by.

Our Supervisors are far more aware of our needs than the legislators, particularly those of the West End, of Suffolk
Bea Miller
East Quogue

Selection of judges

Here we are again, less than a month away from selecting four New York State Supreme Court Justices, still straddled with an antiquated system of comparing the candidates for this position. The candidates are forbidden by the judicial canon of ethics from actually going out and campaigning for your vote. They are not allowed to advertise their own qualifications or question the qualifications of their opponents so we are denied any information on which to base our decision.

At least this year we will be able to select four different men and not be stuck with cross-endorsements of hand-picked party hacks.

None of us realize the importance of picking qualified judges until it is too late, and we come face-to-face with the judicial system. Over the last year, we have been involved with the judicial system in a personal matter, and are appalled at the system of justice here in Suffolk County and in the State of New York. The courts are a kingdom unto themselves. They are insensitive and unfair. People's time is wasted and it is extremely questionable whether justice does prevail. On one hand, judges want to be treated as gods and on the other hand, they expect you to be tolerant of their human weaknesses.

Like the position of comptroller we

spoke of in the preceding editorial, the selection of judges has in the past been made pretty much along party lines. We implore you to take the time to find out as much as you can about each of the men seeking the position of judge. Make your selection based upon the man's former record in public service or law, and his ability and desire to comprehend and be of service to the average person. Do not pick your judges lightly, for some day you may be a victim of your own apathy and be served justice that isn't truly just. And why not?

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Getting paid to be a vandal

It is legal for a judge to order retribution from a juvenile delinquent who has been convicted of willful vandalism. This is a regular course of action in smaller, upstate communities. But for some reason, here on Long Island, judges have been reluctant to impose such provisions.

The federal government gave the Suffolk County Probation Department a grant of almost \$300,000 to set up such a program. The probation department is now looking for a half-million dollars of additional federal aid to carry out this edict. With the facts on the table, the federal government would be crazy to give the county probation department one cent more.

The Suffolk County Probation Department used the initial \$300,000 to set up a program whereby convicted juvenile delinquents instead of being made to make amends for their crimes were rewarded with \$2,600 per year part-time jobs. The jobs were paid for through the federal grant.

In a time of high unemployment, particularly amongst teenagers, the probation department's handling of

this program is ludicrous. In effect it says to juveniles seeking a job, "If you want one, go out and tear apart someone's property, get caught, and we will reward you with a nice job."

The probation department lamely whines they did not have the funds to properly staff and supervise the program. For God's sake, didn't these idiotic bureaucrats realize this was the purpose of the first \$300,000?

Convicted juvenile offenders were supposed to do jobs in which they contributed part of their salaries to make amends for their actions. The grant money was to be used to supervise and oversee this program.

It should not have been used to pay those little punks a salary without requiring them to make restitution.

The probation department's thinking on this program is typical of our many bleeding heart liberal programs, and in part is a reason why this country is in trouble. The misuse of funds for this program highlights the need for productive standards for all agencies, as well as sunset legislation that will require a periodic review of funded programs to insure

they are not being misused.

Vandalism today is a serious problem costing the citizens of New York State millions of dollars a year.

Restitution is an idea whose time has come. A kid will think twice if he knows when caught he will have to

spend weeks and months repairing the damage he has created and not have a penny to show for his efforts.

We are glad the revelation of the misuse has been made, since the publicity might still head the program in the right direction. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"Don't let that flag touch the ground"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Each morning, weather permitting, two retired veterans, Fred Baumauk and Benny Brown of 1355 Roanoke Avenue, raised and in the evening retired the American Flag. The flag pole is a huge one, set in a circle of shrubbery with paths leading to surrounding apartments.

The flag in use was a small one, totally inadequate to the size of the pole, and in a short time, became shredded because of the high winds.

A widow of a deceased veteran asked them if they would accept a flag from her which had been presented to her from the government at the death of her husband. They gladly accepted, and each day, weather permitting, that flag flew free, bringing memories, some sad and some glad; a smile of pride as it snapped in the breeze.

One evening as the flag was brought down, Fred said to Benny, 'Don't let that flag touch the ground.' Benny retorted, 'Ain't never goin' to let that flag touch the ground.' Someone facetiously asked, 'Why can't the

flag touch the ground? Benny turned and fiercely said, 'That flag ain't goin' to touch the ground, No How - No Way.'

One morning two disconsolate men were sitting on a bench. They were asked 'Where's the flag?' Silently they pointed to the pole, the ropes had been maliciously cut.

Then, two neighbors, Mrs. Stella Szymanski and Mrs. Emily Valentine, took matters into their capable hands. They canvassed the neighborhood, and on receiving the required amount, purchased the rope for the flag, and on Sunday, Sept. 17, by courtesy of the Riverhead Fire Department, the flag was raised on the new rope.

Our thanks to the neighbors who so generously contributed, to Mrs. Szymanski and Mrs. Valentine, and to the Riverhead Fire Department who made it possible to fly our flag again.

Patriotism may be hidden, but comes the moment, it burns just as fiercely as ever.

Florence Rini
Riverhead

"It serves no purpose"

Dear Mr. Roecklein and School Board Members:

It is with much indignation that I find myself writing this letter. If one is to believe recent news quotes by some of our school board members relative to senior citizens vs. school budget votes, then I as a senior citizen object vehemently and demand a public retraction of the offending members.

How dare they impugn the dignity of the seniors in this school district! How dare they, for the sake of passing a school budget, publicly advocate minimizing senior citizen housing! It serves no purpose by signaling out senior citizens as the bad guys in the recently defeated budget votes. The fact that you cannot get a budget passed is strong indication that the voters have been alienated by the board's past performances.

In order to gain the confidence and credibility of all the voters, you must first earn it. Irresponsible public statements by

board members are not going to help attitudes but instead, make for further polarization. You seem to forget that we seniors contribute sizeable tax revenues for the support of our schools. In return, we ask nothing other than these funds be utilized as expeditiously as possible. Can you imagine the repercussions should these funds be suddenly denied you? Let's stop passing the buck as to why or who's to blame for the negative budget votes. The voters have exercised the democratic process which is most important. Would you have it any other way?

In closing, I should like to strongly advise that in the future, board members use more restraint in making public statements and act like the responsible adult people we thought we had elected.

Respectfully yours,
Vincent J. Paga
Anirate Senior Citizen

Controlling public fringes

As recent police and teacher negotiations have revealed, taxpayers are paying educators and law enforcement officers fringe benefits ranging from 35 per cent to over 50 per cent of their gross salaries. In private business, fringes rarely exceed 20 per cent of gross pay. They can't, for if they did, businesses would operate at a loss and cease to function.

The exorbitant fringe benefits came into being through mismanagement and poor negotiations over the last decade. School boards, towns and the county found it more advantageous to give public employees super fringes in lieu of cash salary increases. Many of these fringes did not have to be paid for at the time, and in effect were a postponement of payment to be handled by others, the next generation.

During the last decade, schools and government ran out of fringe ideas and had to pay cash increases to public employees. Today police and educators receive annual wages ranging from \$12,000 to over \$40,000. They are paid between \$13 and \$40 per hour, with fringe costs running from a minimum of \$7.00 to as high as \$20.00 over and above salary.

The salaries alone today are far more than the average wage paid for comparable work in the private sector. With the fringes added, governments have stretched themselves to the breaking point and the tax assessments levied are costing people their way of life, and in hundreds of cases, the very homes that they live in.

Public employees have gotten used to having their own way at the bargaining table but they want still more. Teacher strikes are illegal but are becoming more and more prevalent. Even the police have used

the threat of a strike to win settlements. Just recently, the Suffolk County Jail experienced a walkout by guards, leaving the facility dangerously understaffed and virtually in a position of siege.

Elected officials are finding themselves almost powerless to deal constructively with the organized force of public unions. They have attempted to use binding arbitration as a mechanism to settle these labor disputes, but this has also proved to be a disaster. The arbitrators are only human, subject to the same pressures and corruptibility as anyone else. The result is that binding arbitration has given away everything but the kitchen sink, and there are clear-cut indications even that's going next.

We must turn to our legislators for relief. We have discussed this problem with most legislators we have been interviewing over the last week. Incumbents and challengers alike agree this is a major problem they will have to confront during this coming term. Almost to a man, they are willing to seriously consider legislation putting a mandated cap on fringe benefits for public employees.

It has been suggested the cap be a composite average of what is paid to private employees. Fringe benefits and hours worked would be controlled through legislation to reflect those in private industry. Pressure would then be lifted from local boards to allow for real negotiations on money alone between public unions and elected officials. Relief must be forthcoming. This relief can only come through legislative action. It is good to see most legislative candidates recognize this and are willing to do something about it. And why not?

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SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS
and Suffolk County Life

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Why waste more taxes?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

The Suffolk County Department of Land Management last week filed an application with the federal government for fifty workers to fix up the non-aviation buildings at the county airport. C.E.T.A. workers are paid by the federal government but are managed through the county Department of Labor.

Suffolk County took over the Suffolk Airbase in Westhampton in the early '70's. When the county took over the base, the facility was in good repair, ready for tenants to move into it. Typical of the way business has been handled in Suffolk County, instead of looking at this facility as an asset, the county politicians looked at it as an opportunity for patronage.

The first thing they did was put a fifty-man troop of sheriffs on the base to guard the premises. Between the salaries paid to the sheriff's men, the executives of the Department of Aviation, and other support personnel, the base operation became a multi-million dollar loss.

During the next five years, the portion of the base controlled by the county rapidly fell into disrepair. Buildings were vandalized, plumbing and pipes were stolen from buildings, even some fell down just from plain neglect. In contrast, the Air National Guard's portion of the base was kept spic and span, and improvements were made on a regular basis.

Currently, the Air National Guard is investing over six million dollars in remodeling, rebuilding and refurbishing their portion of the airport.

I often go past the airbase while coming to work. Time and time again I have said to myself why are we allowing this golden opportunity to go to waste? Over one-half million square feet of buildings that could be utilized productively bringing income and jobs into our economy are lying fallow.

I am intimately familiar with many of these buildings, because I did a stint at the airbase between semesters at college. I worked for A.I.O., which was in charge of the buildings.

Most of these structures are basic cement block construction. They have concrete slabs for floors, heavy duty wiring and normal plumbing. I can envision these buildings housing service shops, start-up industries, and general businesses. They ideally lend themselves to low cost rentals for new or emerging businesses. Here is a place where a guy with an idea and a couple of bucks in his pocket could go to work inexpensively and build a company. It would be part of a solid foundation of Suffolk's East End economy.

After having written several editorials espousing this viewpoint, I was asked to serve on the legislature's Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Airport.

The committee's first responsibility was to find ways of cutting the huge deficit the county airbase was operating under. To cut the deficit, it seemed sensible to all of us to eliminate the non-necessary functions, retaining only those that were vital to keeping the airbase open on a

minimal basis. We felt these minimal service costs could be covered by renting out the existing facilities within the confines of the base. By combining both approaches, we projected the airbase would be operating in the black within a year's time.

The county accepted many of our recommendations for trimming the operation. They went overboard on some, others, that were more politically sensitive, they left intact.

The outcome was that the cost of operating the airbase was reduced from over one million dollars to less than \$200,000. This \$200,000 deficit could have easily been made up by the rental of the facilities, even at what would be considered give-away prices. From the smaller and less desirable buildings, the county could charge a square foot rental of 50 cents to \$1.

On the more expensive buildings, the county would receive a similar low rental, but could charge a fee in keeping with the structure's worth.

We recommend tenants be given credits towards their rent for repairs and remodeling they would perform. This was recommended because County Executive John Klein's office was reluctant to give tenants anymore than a year's lease with a renewal clause. After much arguing, the county executive's office finally agreed to allow up to three year leases.

During the time of these meetings, I was personally approached by a vanity maker from New Jersey. He

had heard about the airbase, and attempted to find information about renting space. I sent him to see the people I knew who were involved. The run-around he got was incredible. He had to get clearance from more departments than I thought existed. Because of the red tape involved, it was estimated that to execute a normal lease could take from six months to a year.

Klein's office insisted every lease had to be approved by Land Management, Commissioner of Transportation, Department of Insurance, legal department, Department of Health, Federal Aviation, Grounds and Maintenance and other offices ad infinitum. In addition, the county required a series of advertisements detailing the intentions of the prospective tenant, and public hearings on the plans. The whole procedure was incredible.

I personally believe the requirements were all a smoke screen put up by the county executive to keep these buildings from being rented, and to keep this facility from becoming a revenue producer for the people of Suffolk County. I fought on the committee for the development of a simple, comprehensive, leasing procedure, whereby one application could be made and expeditiously routed through the various departments Klein's office maintained were necessary.

Today, two and a half years after the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, there are a few tenants on the base. The most notable tenant is a

clothing manufacturer, Tony Labua. He pays the county \$850 a month in rent and employs sixty people. The only reason he is a tenant and able to employ sixty East End residents is because Legislator John Donohue went to bat for him when his Shirley factory was burned out. Donohue pulled out all stops and threatened to go public over the county's arbitrary denial through inaction of allowing this viable business on the base. The normal six month to a year's waiting period was cut to about sixty days.

Since then, other inquiries about the base have been received, but when prospective tenants saw the red tape and delay in time, they walked away in disgust.

The situation surrounding the rental of this valuable asset will not be changed until the man who is sitting as the highest elected official of Suffolk County is.

It makes no sense for the federal government to award a grant to the county to fix up these buildings if the county has no intention of renting them. It's a shame Klein's attitude towards the airbase is causing the waste of our tax dollars through the loss of profits that could be derived from these rentals. His inaction is also costing people here on Eastern Long Island economic opportunities, jobs, and loss in sales tax. But this is the way Klein has operated since he became involved in our county's operation, so we can expect no improvement until the election of 1979, when the people remove him from office. And why not?

'So this pit of antiquity continues to exist'

To the Editor,

As a citizen of Brookhaven Town, I am embarrassed at our municipal animal "shelter". Shelter is a kind word to use for those provisions for homeless, lost and unwanted pets. Brookhaven is indeed a growing town and has many outstanding services offered to its residents. I am certain that the only reason why the conditions at our pound are so horrendous is because only a few people and council representatives ever enter the facility. So this pit of antiquity continues to exist. The dogs are penned in a community kennel with up to 14 dogs in one pen. Every time I have been to this pound, which is approximately 100 times, I have seen dog fights. The last time, a poodle puppy was pinned in a corner by a larger shepherd mix dog. If I had not been there to stop the fight, the puppy would have suffered physically and may have died. The structure is so antiquated that the animals must be moved from one kennel with several dogs to another to be cleaned and fed.

It is a sad experience to see several dogs thrown into one kennel and then fed in that kennel. Veterinarians have stated that it is very rare when dogs put in this situation do not express aggression and dominance. They will fight and sometimes maul and kill one another over food. The kennel staff at the Brookhaven pound are exasperated at trying to work in these archaic facilities. Our head dog warden has stated to us that in the past, he has gone to the pound in the morning to find pieces of sheepdog in a community

kennel with the other dogs when the night before there was a dog. They had torn him apart. Our Brookhaven shelter is the worst shelter in Suffolk County. Why?

As a member of Volunteers For Animal Welfare and part of our Brookhaven Canine Advisory Committee, we would like to form a committee for a new Brookhaven shelter. We need interested Brookhaven people to help with their advice and influence. If you are interested in this worthy cause, please write to the Volunteers for Animal Welfare, P.O. Box 151, Yaphank, New York, 11980, Attn: Elisabeth Dascal, Pres. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Elisabeth Dascal

ED. NOTE: The Brookhaven Dog Shelter is darn good. In fact the living conditions for unwanted animals is far better than some of the humans enjoy in Brookhaven town. We realize some in their love for animals are willing to do without so puppies can have better care. We do not object to their sentiments, but resent their wanting others to pay more in taxes to provide better care than can be gotten from a vet. We have many people needs in Brookhaven that must be served first. The main one is the survival of the average homeowner and taxpayer. Adding more tax obligations by building a new super elaborate dog hotel-hospital will only cause more hardship on the people. The trade off would be wrong.

Readers' Opinion

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Indexing our tax system

One of the questions we quizzed this year's candidate running for state or federal office on quite thoroughly was their understanding and support of "indexing of income and corporate taxes to inflation."

Inflation gives both the state and the federal government a silent but deadly tax increase each year. You pay your income taxes on a progressive basis. As your income moves up, so does the percentage of taxes you are forced to pay.

For the last decade we have been in a whirlwind of inflation. Every year we have been faced with an erosion of our buying power from six to 12 per cent.

Most of our bosses have attempted to raise our salaries to allow us to keep up with inflation. They have given us raises they hoped would allow us to keep our heads above water. Yet, most of us find we are not

able to make ends meet as well as we did five, ten, or twenty years ago.

A decade ago, if you were making \$10,000 you were pretty solidly imbedded in the middle-class. You paid an income tax of around 14 per cent. You had enough money left over to meet the expenses and necessities, plus purchase a few luxuries for yourself and your family.

The same \$10,000 job today is paying \$20,000. The difference is, instead of paying around 3 per cent in Social Security, you are paying over 6 per cent. Instead of your maximum contribution ceasing when you made the first \$5,000, you are now paying on the first \$17,700.

Even more devastating is the increased tax money you are paying in federal and state taxes. You are paying these increased monies because your income has almost doubled. If you are in the \$20,000

bracket you are paying somewhere in the neighborhood of 36 per cent in taxes. You are paying your 36 per cent even though your money's purchasing power is less than what it was when you were making \$10,000.

For four years now, Suffolk Life has recognized the serious inequities of a progressive income tax system not being tied or indexed to inflation. We have recommended editorially that we adopt the Canadian system of indexing taxes to inflation here in the United States. When this system is adopted, the base of taxation is increased with the base of inflation.

If it had been put into effect a decade ago, you would still be paying a 14 per cent tax on your \$12-\$20,000 earned instead of the 36 per cent you now are. Let's face it, \$20,000 today is worth less than what \$10,000 was worth ten years ago. \$20,000 today does not buy what \$10,000 bought ten

years ago because inflation has reduced the value of the money while pushing your earning power up.

If progressive income taxes are not indexed to inflation within a decade even the poor will be paying one-half their earnings in taxes. No longer will a 50 per cent tax bracket be reserved for the rich. Maybe this is what the federal government wants, a silent but deadly way of doing away with the progressive income tax system which has penalized productivity and investment opportunities in America.

Most candidates we interviewed for both state and federal offices had a weak knowledge of the system. When it was explained to them in detail they seemed to grasp the concept. Some were more excited than others, but we have hope they will introduce and push for legislation that will end this inequity. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!"

Dear Mr. Randolph:

I am sure you do not remember me but my husband and I had the pleasure of meeting you and your lovely wife when you introduced yourselves around our table during a fundraiser buffet at Felice's last year.

I did not ever think that I would be writing a letter to a politician but like the people in the movie "Network", 'I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!'

I live in the Eagle Estates Development in Medford right next to the woods and the ball park, which you recently dedicated to the memory of Edith Ruggles. In my opinion, I feel that houses should have been built on this land instead because the park is nothing more than a hang-out at night for noisy juveniles and it is also an easy escape route for vandals after they commit their destruction in the immediate neighborhood.

Last night, Saturday, September 16th at approximately 9:30, a bottle of gasoline was thrown at the benches in the park and ignited

by person or persons unknown. If it had not been for the dampness of the evening and quick action on the part of my mother-in-law (who lives right on the corner of Kane and Wave Avenues) in dousing the flames with sand, these benches would have been completely destroyed. After the fire was put out, my mother-in-law, Mrs. Nine, looked around and noticed that the fence on her property was defaced by obscenities written with a can of spray paint. She called the police at this time and was told that a patrol car would be around as soon as there was one available. I cannot believe that the police do not consider fire bombs being thrown an emergency.

When there was no answer to her first call, Mrs. Nine again called the police at approximately 12:30 am of the 17th. The policeman who answered the telephone was extremely rude and reiterated that a car would be there as soon as there was one available. Mrs. Nine asked for his name and he hung up on her. Needless to say, a patrol

car never arrived.

My husband is a volunteer fireman and we were awakened by the Plectron around 4 o'clock this morning announcing a brush fire on Fire Avenue between Kane and Heather Avenues. This is right down the block from where the first fire occurred. Sure enough, the fire was of suspicious origin.

An examination of my neighborhood this morning showed several houses defaced by spray paint. The man who lives across the street from my mother-in-law, Mr. Meaney, called the police this morning because there was paint all over his house. His call received a response. The policeman told Mr. Meaney that Mrs. Nine's calls were not answered because she neglected to give her address. This is hardly true at all. She repeated her address several times.

The next time we might not be so lucky. the next time maybe a house or a vehicle will be fire bombed. Whoever is doing these deeds has no fear of repeating them because they can see that no action is being taken against them.

When the park was first dedicated, we had a park patrol there most nights, for a short while, but this protection seems to have ended.

I pay \$1,300 a year in property taxes and

what do I receive in return? I have to pay \$30.00 a year for a private school bus because we do not live a mile from the school. We live 9-10's of a mile from the school and I feel that this is too far for my son to walk, especially since we do not have any sidewalks. The snow removal in this area last winter left much to be desired and now it is obvious that we do not rate police protection. This is a very lonely area at night. The street lighting is minimal and we are right on the edge of the woods and the ball park which, as I said before, are easy escape routes.

This incident last night was not an isolated one. We have had trouble here for a long time, such as gas tanks being siphoned, eggs being thrown at houses and cars during the night, etc. However, after last night's events, I feel that these happenings should be brought to the attention of someone like yourself who is in the position to do something for our neighborhood.

In closing, I would like to congratulate you upon your victory in the primary and wish you good luck in the November election.

Thanking you for your attention to this letter, I am
Respectfully yours,
Rita Mendrina
Medford

"Ignorance may be your excuse"

Dear Editor,

The story by Roy Kahn (Suffolk Life, Sept. 20); relating to the establishment of a home for the mentally retarded in Center Moriches, was of interest to me. I am, in a small way, associated with the Suffolk County Association for the Mentally Retarded, and have a daughter so classified.

The reactions of the residents of any community to this kind of proposal are not always predictable. However, the reaction of Gerald Campbell was very predictable. It is fairly comforting to me to be able to say I hardly know Gerald Campbell, but I am well aware of what he says and does. I suppose his life style is fairly comfortable, and if it is necessary to deny any consideration, understanding or love to those less fortunate to maintain his life style, he is showing that he is capable of taking a self-centered position.

The mentally retarded are not insane. They are limited in the possession of intelligence. On that they are not alone, Mr. Campbell. However, in their case, what the good Lord deprived them of in intelligence He

made up in their capacity to love. These loving, special people will never harm anyone, never steal, nor vandalize. They want only what we all seek, a home, a place to live, and acceptance in the community.

These intelligence-retarded people have been so afflicted since birth. They are not homosexuals, nor drug addicts, nor mentally disturbed. They are not ex-alcoholics, nor the victims of a nervous breakdown. They are mentally retarded, through no fault of their own. Why should we associate them with some other mental institution with which their affliction has no relation?

Those who would presume to slam the door in the faces of these lovable people will some day have to answer to their God. In this reckoning, Mr. Campbell, ignorance may be your only excuse. Perhaps, if you become more aware of what mental retardation is all about, and who the mentally retarded are, you too will become a dedicated worker in this area of concern.

John Foley
Manorville

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Keep close to home this Halloween

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Halloween is an occasion kids of all ages look forward to. For the young, it means imaginative costumes, and bags full of goodies supplied by friends and neighbors. Unfortunately, behind some of the doors the kids will be knocking this Halloween are evil-minded, sick people.

With increasing frequency, newspaper accounts the day after Halloween are filled with horror stories of kids being given poisoned

candy, razor blades in apples, and other such perversions.

We urge parents to allow their children to beg only in their own neighborhood, and at homes of people they know. Within a dozen or so houses, most kids can get a bagful of candy that is guaranteed to make a stomach ache. To allow kids to beg for hours on end blocks and neighborhoods away from their homes makes no sense.

Most goodies the kids receive are

thrown out, because even as children they get sick of the sweet stuff. The kids' lives are also potentially in peril from accepting gifts from strangers, and there is the ever prevailing risk of a little one darting into a dark street in front of a car.

We particularly implore parents of older children to warn them that acts of vandalism are considered a crime. Judges today can order offenders to make restitution. One thrown rotten egg could cause your son or daughter

to have to work a month after school and on Saturdays picking up litter off the highways.

There are plenty of things teenagers can do that are not willful acts of vandalism designed to interfere or hurt other people. Talk to your kids, and warn them you will support the judge and the court and will not attempt to intercede on their behalf. Only if they realize you mean business will they think twice. And why not?

Readers' Opinion

'Probation supervision is reality'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The August 2, 1978 issue of Suffolk Life contained an article concerning probation volunteers, which in part seems to discredit the Suffolk County Department of Probation and denigrates the position of probation officer. I am confident that this was not the intent of Mr. McCoy, the article's author.

The article indicates that the department's volunteer program was started because the department did not have the manpower to handle each of its clients properly. A casual reader may be led to believe that prior to the use of volunteers, the department's handling of cases was "improper". I believe that Mr. McCoy meant to convey that volunteers were used in an effort to enhance delivery of services at time when the department is understaffed.

The Suffolk County Department of Probation is the third largest probation department in the state, and maintains standards of performance second to none. The department consistently meets or exceeds all state standards regarding delivery of services and has done it despite the realities of fiscal limitations, burgeoning caseloads, and understaffing attributable to county hiring freezes.

Another aspect of the article that causes a degree of concern is the seeming inference that a volunteer is qualified to "counsel" probationers and to "...do much the same work as probation officers", after a mere 12 hours of training.

Probation officers in Suffolk are all college graduates, who after passing a written qualifying exam, are required to undergo an extensive background investigation, a medical exam, and a psychological examination prior to being hired.

After hiring, a Probation Officer Trainee must complete well over 200 hours of classroom training, and then serve a two-year internship prior to being appointed a probation officer. In the third and subsequent years, probation officers are required to complete 35 hours of advanced training annually. Many probation officers in Suffolk have completed post-graduate studies and have earned Master's degrees.

The readers of Suffolk Life are most likely not aware of these facts and may question the county's wisdom in hiring professional probation officers to do what the article seems to infer that volunteers are able to do after just 12 hours of training.

As defined by the New York State Division of Probation, the primary function of probation supervision is protection of the community against further anti-social acts of those under supervision. The secondary purpose is to assist probationers in making changes in their attitudes and/or life styles which will aid them in becoming law-abiding and productive citizens. The probation officer must develop the skill to maintain the

delicate balance required to effectively accomplish both of these objectives; and I submit that this cannot be learned in a mere 12 hours of training.

Probation supervision is reality; it is not life viewed through rose colored glasses. It is a demanding, often unrewarding, and some time routine job which may at the same time be very challenging, exciting, and dangerous. It is perhaps this dichotomy which serves to retain employees in a job which is underpaid in relation to the high qualification required, and which offers little chance for advancement.

Volunteerism is not new; it has been much a part of probation for years. Every probation officer has at one time or another recruited a teacher, guidance counselor, clergyman, service club member, member of a Chamber of Commerce, or an average citizen to assist someone on a caseload. Community involvement is a welcome addition to probation supervision, and one that this Association wholeheartedly endorses. The only new aspect of the addition of a full-time Volunteer Coordinator to the staff.

We hope that you will advise your readers of the full facts in an effort to clear up any misconceptions that may have inadvertently been caused by the August 2 article.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Very truly yours,
Thomas R. Taylor
Regional Vice-President

Ed. Note: We reported what we were told by a member of the Suffolk County Probation Department. I detect in your letter underlying fear of volunteers taking jobs that the union feels are their own. I am sorry to see this attitude.

I love New York

New York broke into bedlam Tuesday night when the Yankees put away the Dodgers in what is being considered a miracle comeback in the baseball world.

The Yankees were fourteen games behind in August. They had been counted out as pennant contenders, but just two months later, they once again brought the title "Home of the World Champs" back to New York. This was accomplished through a unified team effort, good management, and the rooting of fanatical supporters, people who believe in the Yankees.

New York State is much like the Yankees. We were counted out as a viable state, because through fiscal mismanagement, we raised our taxes

to a point where business, investors, and jobs were driven out.

The exodus has slowed, and some corporations are moving back, now that we appear to have regained control of our expenditures.

The song, "I Love New York" was a tune developed as a rallying cry for those who care about the state, and who are willing to dig in and fight to bring us back to prominence.

We may still be a long way from regaining our official title as the Empire State, but it appears to the editor we are headed in the right direction. If we continue on this path and pull together in a unified manner, New York, like the Yankees, can regain its title once again. And why not?

The new Pope

The announcement of the selection of Karol Cardinal Wojtyla as the new pope of the Roman Catholic Church last Tuesday was greeted with shouts of joy here on Eastern Long Island, where there is a large Polish population.

The fact that one of their countrymen was selected to be the leader of the Church is a matter of great pride. The Poles have traditionally taken a beating through jokes and stories, and to have a Pole so honored is a reason for joyous celebration.

To the rest of the Catholic world, the selection of this well traveled younger man, who is aware of contemporary

Catholic problems, is a sign of renewed hope for the Church. The Catholic Church, like most organized religions, has experienced a slippage in attendance and adherence to traditional beliefs. Part of this was due to the changes made by Ecumenical Councils I and II, and part is the result of changes in the society we live in. Thousands of Catholics have been sitting on the sidelines, still considering themselves Christians and Catholics, but refusing to take part in the normal activities of the Church.

We hope John Paul II will be the guiding light needed to bring some back to the fold. We also hope and anticipate he will bring a breath of fresh air and modern thinking to the Church.

To be a meaningful and viable part of people's lives, the Church must remain true to its dogmas, while allowing changes that keep pace with today's thinking.

The selection of a Pope from a Communist country may also establish the means for bridging the gap between Communist and free world countries.

Although the Poles have much to be joyous about, all of us have a lot to be hopeful for. Regardless of our faith, we should each offer John Paul II our prayers and support as the new leader of the Catholic Church. And why not?

SUFFOLK LIFE
NEWSPAPERS
and Suffolk County Life

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Election 1978

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

This coming Wednesday, Suffolk Life Newspaper will make its endorsements for Governor, U.S. Congress, State Senator, State Assembly and County Comptroller. Suffolk Life is a politically independent newspaper whose only obligation is to its readers. It is not influenced or controlled by any political group or party.

The process through which we select candidates for endorsement is lengthy, time consuming, and thorough one. During the incumbent's term of office, we carefully follow their votes on various key issues. We constantly keep in touch with the incumbents, questioning them on how and why they are voting.

As challengers emerge in the spring of every election year, we attempt to find out who they really are, where they are coming from, what they believe in, and what kind of representative they would make for you.

Over the summer and into the fall, these candidates are interviewed by our news staff on a number of occasions. Their speeches and positions are monitored and checked for accuracy and consistency.

In September, we develop the questionnaires now being published. They contain approximately one hundred issue-oriented questions which the candidates must take a yes or no stand on. This gives you a comparison of the candidates, and an idea of what you can expect from them if they are elected.

Our editorial staff also personally conducts one-to-one interviews with the candidates, checking public statements for consistency, and finding out how and why they stand on particular issues.

Needless to say, honest candidates know we will not agree with all their positions. We expect them to have different opinions than ours. What we are trying to determine is their credibility and the real philosophy that drives them.

These last two weeks before the election, our news and editorial staffs have been constantly conferring, comparing, and going over notes and tapes in an attempt to determine who will be the best candidate to accomplish what you want done. This Wednesday, we will publish our findings in the form of endorsements.

inflation on both the federal and state levels.

Any candidate who opposes this simple, fair, and equitable system does not deserve the consideration of your vote, because it shows they unequivocally favor big government's needs over yours.

Over the past 18 years of political interviews, we have listened to candidates espouse philosophies in tune with their constituents' wants and desires, only to vote against the taxpayers' wishes once in office.

This is the real reason we spend so much time selecting the candidates we endorse. We strive as hard as humanly possible to determine not only who will be the best qualified, but who will honestly represent your needs.

In some races, both candidates are shallow, and there will be only one loser on election night -- the public. In other races, outstanding candidates

have come to the surface, making our endorsement process easier. After you read our endorsements on Wednesday, we hope you will re-check the questionnaires, which quite accurately show the philosophy and positions of each candidate.

You will weigh our endorsements against all other information you have available, and determine who will be the best candidate to represent your needs. One thing we ask is that you carefully weigh the philosophies and stands candidates have taken on the issues against their personalities.

Some of the candidates are super politicians, warm, gracious, and loveable. These same politicians, however, are sometimes wolves in sheep's clothing. They will turn on you, biting your hand and pocketbook, but will never stop smiling and making you think they are all for you. And why not?

The Issues of 1978

The single clear-cut issue overshadowing the 1978 Suffolk races is survival -- finding a way to be able to survive on the income left after taxes.

As we interviewed the candidates, one of our main goals was to determine how well they perceive this as an issue. Of course, all candidates answered that the main issue was taxes -- any damn fool knew that. What we were really concerned about was how well the candidates perceive the trouble the taxpayers are in because of government. We wanted to know if they thoroughly understand that many voters in this election have been forced to drastically change their way of life, some to the point they have their homes up for sale, and are reluctantly leaving the area because they have been taxed out of it. When we discussed taxes, we were interested in finding out how well the candidates understand what causes the need for taxes.

When we discussed the cost of education, which is responsible for over 60 per cent of local real estate taxes, we sought out their knowledge on ways to cut this expenditure without sacrificing the educational end product. Did they know what causes the high cost of education? Would they be willing to make politically risky, but educationally sound cuts in some areas?

When we questioned the candidates on Initiative and Referendum, we sought to determine their depth of conviction. Did they believe as lawmakers they knew what was best for the people, or did they feel the people being governed should have an opportunity to determine the quality and quantity of government they desire? We were interested in determining beforehand what the

candidates' reaction and solutions would be if Initiative and Referendum were passed in New York State, and how they would cope if New York voters passed a Proposition 13.

On the federal as well as the state level, we were concerned with the concept of inflation -- where it comes from, what it does to taxes, and how the candidates intended to alleviate it. Last Tuesday night, President Carter addressed the nation on inflation. What he fed you was unadulterated political bull. Both the President and this year's candidates know that with the federal government directly contributing 34 per cent of the gross national product, and an estimated 40 per cent indirectly, the federal government itself is the cause of inflation.

The obvious solution to curbing inflation is to harness federal spending and taxes. The simplest and most direct method of accomplishing this is to take away the benefit the federal government gets from inflation.

The federal government receives a silent, deadly tax increase each time inflation goes up. Under a progressive income tax system, as we and corporations earn more money, a higher percentage of the income is paid in taxes, but buying power is not necessarily increased.

A man who was making \$10,000 ten years ago paid 14 per cent of his income in taxes. Today, he makes \$20,000, and pays 36 per cent of his income in taxes, but his salary won't allow him to buy the same things he could afford ten years earlier. The situation is the same on the state level.

To control inflation and cut taxes, our tax structure must be indexed to

Readers' Opinion

'Now is the time to decide'

An Open Letter:

When I was a child, every year my family would leave the hot, dirty sidewalks of Queens to spend the summer in Wildwood. It was a great place to live. I became a year-round resident of Wading River sixteen years ago.

I have always been proud of my town. It's nice to know that the Riverhead schools (which my children attend) have such a low incidence of vandalism. It is good to hear my teenage daughter say "Of course Mom, Riverhead students are proud of their schools." How many towns have such a good turnout on cleanup day? Where else can a community plant flowers along the main street and not have them vandalized? These things make me glad that this is my home.

Is it not wonderful living where we are surrounded by water and lovely beaches? What a shame that each summer it becomes more difficult to find a spot on Wading River Town Beach that is not covered with litter. Left there for the most part, by adults and by young children, who need only a little guidance from their parents.

There are other examples of this change; new street lights already destroyed, deliberate destruction of town park property, and smashed mail boxes.

These problems are only beginning in this area. Now is the time for all of us (child, youth, and adult) to decide what we want for our community and what we as individuals can do about it.

Eleanor Elkins

'You have all been so kind'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Speaking for all the North Sea Community Association members, I would like to thank Suffolk Life for the fine, fine work your people have put out in helping us publicize our Wine and Cheese Tasting Party and our meetings.

You have all been so kind and willing to help... without you behind us, I'm afraid the North Sea Community Association would not be what it is today.

Sincerely,
Linda McClain
Southampton

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