

Stockholders May Be Liable

One of the last expert witnesses to appear before the Shoreham Commission was Jerrold Oppenheim from the New York State Attorney General's office. He spoke on the concept of "used and useful" and its application to Public Service Law in reference to Shoreham.

A small group of us on the Shoreham Commission has insisted that the application of this law could be applied to the Shoreham situation. We have met substantial resistance from staff members of the PSC, as well as from a noted former PSC chairman who is also a commission member. Oppenheim, speaking for the attorney general's office, removed much of the doubt.

It is the opinion of the attorney general that although not evoked by the Public Service Commission in the last 40 years, the "used and useful" principle of law is still very much a precedent of law that could be applied in the Shoreham case. Under "used and useful" the utility and the owners of the company, the stockholders, are held responsible for all expenses incurred by the utility if these expenditures do not result in a usable system. If Shoreham is stopped from going on line for any reason, the investors in LILCO could be made to absorb either part, or all, of the cost of this fiasco.

LILCO has argued that the company and its stockholders be held harmless. They ask that they be granted rate increases that would provide for a return of their investment and a return on their investment in the form of profit whether the plant is allowed to operate or not.

In other words, LILCO has argued

that the ratepayers must pay for any and all misjudgments or mistakes made by the company, even though the ratepayers will receive nothing in benefits. The company, in effect, wants the ratepayers to be forced to assume all the risks, while the stockholders enjoy all benefits.

Under "used and useful," the investors are forced to assume their responsibilities for the risk they have taken, for the profits they anticipated. This is only logical and fair.

It was very important to have the attorney general's office make its position clear at the hearing. We now can have hope that if Shoreham is not opened, the attorney general will become involved on the people's behalf in protecting them from a corporate raid on their pocketbooks.

Oppenheim also brought out another key point, the law governing a state-ordered reorganization of LILCO. Oppenheim pointed out that, under present law, it is his opinion the Public Service Commission could invoke its powers to order the reorganization of the corporation and the removal of its management if it could be proved that the company has acted with disregard for its fiduciary responsibilities and, because of its actions, the financial health of the corporation is in jeopardy as well as the financial well-being of the service area and the ratepayers.

Oppenheim's presentation was one of the most dramatic and important heard by Governor Mario Cuomo's Shoreham Commission and should have substantial impact on the outcome, and the recommendations which are to be made.

And why not?

Let's Get On With It

The people's fight for low cost power is currently in the initial stages of legal action through the Power for the People suit lodged against the Power Authority of the State of New York, LILCO, and Grumman. The papers for that action, seeking damages of \$25 billion on behalf of the public, have been filed and answers are awaited.

Attorneys for PASNY have requested a delay in the response to this action until October 26 at which time, Power for the People attorney Jess Marchese of Farmingville was told the three defendants will all offer their responses to the legal action. In the interest of fairness to all, the request has been granted. It is not our desire to be unreasonable, all we seek

Power for the People!

I join with you as a partner in your effort to secure much needed help for the residents of Suffolk County. Here is my \$5 for a subscription to Suffolk Life. Power for the People! Make check payable to Suffolk Life. Send to Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977

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is an end to the discrimination that has prevented Long Island residents from receiving low cost PASNY power, which is being made available to other parts of the state.

Each day we receive a new flood of responses to our Power for the People campaign. With the checks which will help offset the costs of this battle, come letters which cry out in frustration, and in fear. "Long Island simply cannot afford the exorbitant LILCO rates forecast for our future," each writer declares. Many long-time residents of this area will be forced to move to escape unaffordable electric costs, and jobs will be lost to the region. Each letter, each vow of support for the Power for the People crusade, each plea for help against the Shoreham fiasco, reinforces our dedication to continue this battle to the only final outcome we will accept: power for the people at a price they can afford to pay!

We did not take on the challenge of this suit lightly. We would much rather have reported that PASNY, recognizing the financial disaster of LILCO, its Shoreham folly, the Public Service Commission, and the federal government through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, had taken steps to prevent this disaster from becoming a reality. But it didn't happen that way. PASNY, through its chairman John Dyson, made the grand gesture to offer low cost power to Grumman and other businesses, but none to the public. LILCO and the NRC continue with the Shoreham

folly, a gigantic mistake that will be the ruination of Long Island if it is permitted to open its doors. The PSC has also continued along its merry way with its "Whatever LILCO wants, LILCO gets" policies.

With the continuation of these practices, and with businesses reaching out to get their share of low cost power without regard to the needs and problems of the public, we had little choice. Suffolk Life has always been in the forefront of battles on behalf of the public, and we could do no less in this, the most threatening problem we have ever faced.

Our patience is wearing thin, however, while we have agreed to a delay until October 26 for the answers to our legal action, Power for the People will resist any further attempts to delay the redress we seek through the courts. There has already been far too much stalling, delay tactics, and simple lack of concern for the needs of Long Island residents. We're tired of sitting back while PASNY promises its power to others while we face outlandish LILCO rates. We will not twiddle our thumbs while the amount of available low cost power is diminished by gifts to businesses, while the people suffer.

Our answer to those who stand in our way in our quest for power for the people is simply this: "Let's get on with it. We have been denied far too long already. Let's settle this issue once and for all."

And why not?

Keep It Clean

We are coming into the height of the political campaigns and a trend seems to be developing that we think most voters will find offensive: campaigns based around mud-slinging, name calling and innuendos.

We have often been critical of political campaigns in the past that were so syrupy nice, they became nothing more than popularity contests. We prefer to see hard hitting campaigns that address themselves to the real issues, those that affect the public's quality of life, the cost of government and the office seekers' qualifications and political philosophies.

Campaigns can either take a

negative or positive approach, but they must be honest. Voters make their choices based on facts and how they perceive the candidates as their representatives for the office they seek.

We implore all office seekers to gear their campaigns to the high road, and guard against improper rhetoric that can only end up hurting them in the end.

Keep it clean, keep it honest, keep it factual and you will be able to look yourself in the mirror the day after election. Being victorious for the wrong reasons is no victory at all.

And why not?

Reader's Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Would you please find out why the Commissioner of Suffolk County Department of Parks refused to put up signs at toll booths warning the public of hazardous and dangerous conditions in our parks, why they collect the toll and refuse to give refunds when the public discover the theft of services

and the fraud perpetrated on them.

Please see my letter of September 14, 1983 to Park Commissioner for details. An immediate investigation of the Commissioner's inactions and park policy should be started. Very truly yours, James O'Connors, Holbrook

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Fatigue Or Design Failure?

As you are well aware, the huge crankshafts of the diesel generators at the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant crumbled like cookies when they were tested under full load. Not one, but all three either split in half, or showed signs of serious damage.

It was assumed at first this failure was caused by the fact the generators had been allowed to lay around idle for over four years before testing was begun. It was speculated the damage could have resulted from improper lubrication. But a report issued last week indicated the shafts cracked because they were not capable of withstanding the load or pressure that was placed upon them.

Did LILCO know the generators would not hold up under such high loads? Is that why they tested the generators at less than required load rates, and were consequently fined \$40,000 by the NRC for fudging the tests?

LILCO spokespeople said this report is only preliminary, that additional testing must be conducted, and maintain material fatigue was at the core of the crankshaft problem. But even that explanation raises serious questions.

The Shoreham plant was originally designed and constructed as a 540 megawatt power plant. In the middle of construction, LILCO arbitrarily up-scaled the reactor and the electrical generating facilities to produce 820 megawatts of power. We have heard numerous charges and allegations that because of this up-scaling, space normally allocated for maintenance and repair had been filled with additional pipes and hardware. That undue stress could be placed on other systems originally built for the smaller plant, both inside and out of the containment area. It is also charged that because of this additional pressure and power, the system will be unable to handle the extra load and as a result, the safe operation of the plant is in jeopardy.

Many of these allegations have been made directly to the N.R.C., but there seems to be little concern being expressed by that supposed-regulatory agency. That's no surprise, for by their own testimony they do not guarantee the safety of the plant nor the safety of the people living in proximity to it.

Was the cracking of the shafts a design failure, one that would have been unearthed if LILCO had participated in an independent design review and a quality assurance in-

spection with Suffolk County and the N.R.C.? Isn't it possible a tri-part inspection team, as had been proposed, would have found the weaknesses in the diesel generating system? Isn't it possible they could also find weaknesses in other important systems that may not fail, without such an inspection, until the plant's fuel is activated and the plant is headed toward full load? Shouldn't we find out before that happens?

If we wait until the plant is operational to discover design error or sloppy construction is the cause of a serious problem, the loss at that time will not only be in dollars. The loss could well be the lives of Suffolk residents!

LILCO continues to maintain there is no need for a design review or a safety inspection. And yet the diesel generator system had run but a total of 910 hours when it failed. Had that failure come at a time when the power these generators must provide in the event of an accident was needed, the lives of our residents would have needlessly been placed in jeopardy.

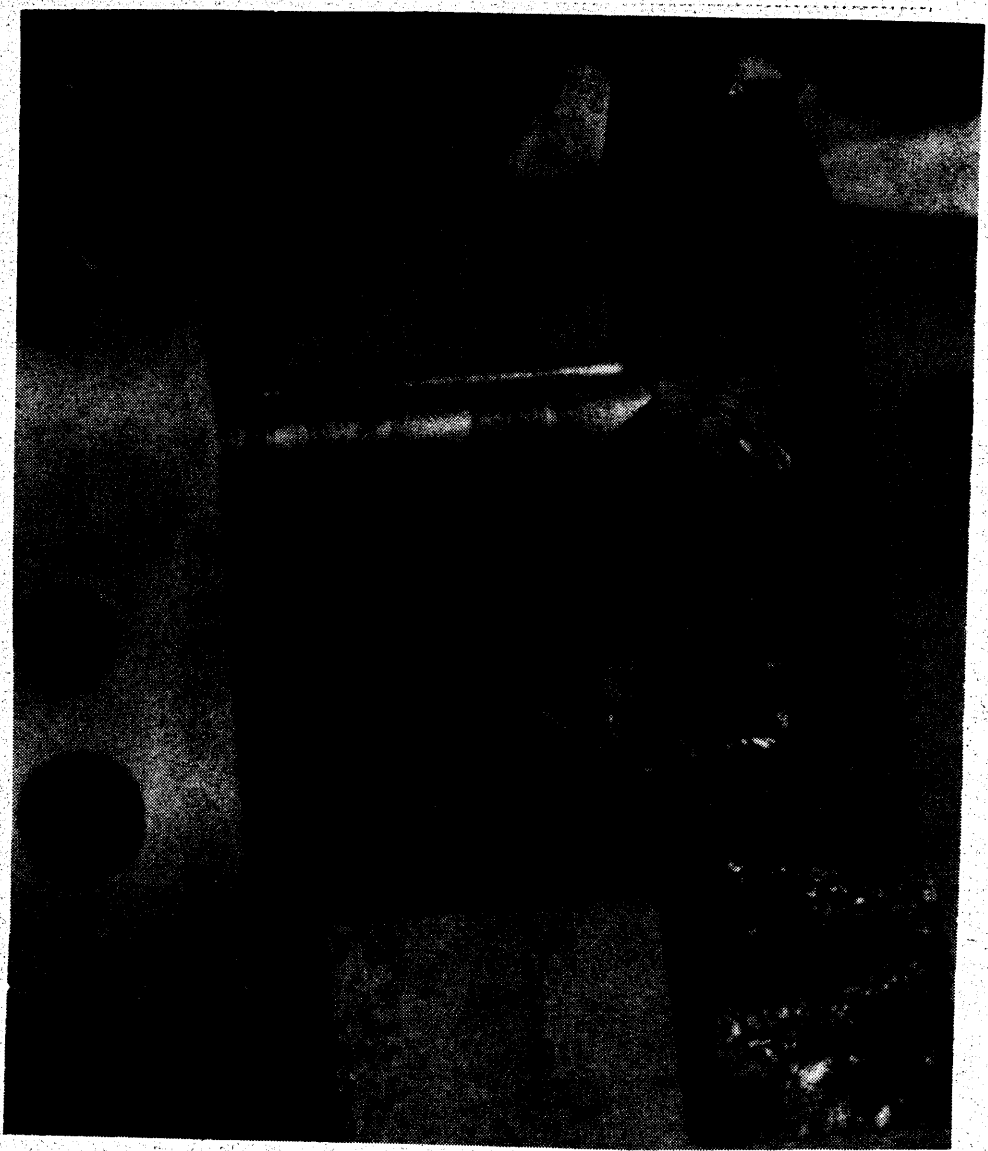
It is ludicrous for LILCO to argue, or for the public to be skeptical enough to believe, that a well-designed piece of equipment manufactured under an adequate quality assurance program, could crumble and fall apart from fatigue after only 910 hours of use. Here is a system, a vital safety system, that was supposed to operate for the entire life cycle of that plant, and it failed in the testing stages.

And we are expected to believe, and LILCO insists, that everything is just great at Shoreham? Sorry LILCO, the people of Long Island are not that stupid, and the growing number of people against the opening of Shoreham is proof of that fact!

With the NRC turning its back on the people of Suffolk County, we have little hope for help from the federal government, which has, through the years, been the prime pusher of nuclear plants. Can the state intervene? Will Governor Cuomo live up to the expectations of the people, and put the public's safety above LILCO's profit motivations? Are people more important than dollars?

We pray so! We sincerely hope Governor Cuomo will show himself to be a governor of the people, motivated in his thinking by what is in the best interest of the public rather than the world of big business.

And why not?



behalf with the planning and highway departments, arguing the builder's case. The public servants hold tight, insisting that public safety can't be bought and sold. The builder doesn't get his permit.

Do you see anything wrong in this scenario?

Was it right for the political leader to take a \$5,000 contribution from the builder when such a sensitive issue was being considered?

Was it right for the political leader, after he had received the \$5,000 contribution, to lobby on behalf of the builder?

Should there be a law against such a situation? Guess what, there isn't. It's legal for a political boss to sell his influence for whatever he can get. Political leaders are not public officials. They are not held accountable to the same laws that public officials are. It's only their own perception of ethics and morals that guide them.

Some political leaders with courage of their convictions and an absolute belief in honesty and government would have no qualms about telling the builder to stick his contribution in his ear. Others see no wrong in accepting a contribution for the good of

the party. Others see no wrong with accepting the contribution for feathering their own nest.

What do you think?

After all the corruption in Suffolk County, the years of having our quality of life, our precious land and its water underneath, used as a cheap commodity by politicians, isn't it time we had a law with teeth in it, a law outlawing political leaders from using their influence to achieve zoning and planning changes?

The lack of such a law is a disgrace, a serious weakness in our political and governmental system.

We now have a weak-kneed law here in Suffolk which forbids political influence in the county, but we have no law affecting the state or the towns. A law with teeth should immediately be drawn and passed on the state level. The need is obvious. Ethics and morals are not enough.

Our Long Island delegation to the State Legislature should not only make a draft of such legislation a priority in 1984, but should lobby on both sides of the aisle to insure its passage.

And why not?

Politicians & Accountability

Picture this scenario: a builder wants special consideration from the Planning Department. He wants to build a project with a cul-de-sac. The planning and highway departments want a through road. They maintain a through road is vital for a smooth flow of traffic, and there are safety and fire considerations that could not be

addressed by a cul-de-sac.

A consultant tells the builder that if he is friendly to the community and particularly to the political party in power, his application might be viewed favorably. The builder buys \$5,000 worth of tickets to a political affair that was held a month before. The political leader intervenes on his

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Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

No Benefit In Opening

"The New York Times" and "Newsday" prematurely leaked last week a preliminary draft report that had been presented by the state's staff to Governor Mario Cuomo's Shoreham Commission. The draft report was not intended to be the final report; it was only one of several scenarios concerning the future financial costs and rates affixed to the Shoreham plant.

The leaked report was very conservative and, as had been expected because of the involvement of Public Service Commission staff in its preparation, presented the most reasonable case for LILCO. But, even in giving LILCO every benefit of doubt - decommissioning cost estimates were woefully understated, as were the percentages for future rate hikes and other factors - even with that, the scenario they developed painted a very bleak picture for the company.

The draft report indicates the plant, over its useful life, would yield \$780 million in real value. Thus, for a plant that has cost over \$3.4 billion to construct, this scenario shows a negative worth of \$2.62 billion. The real value is determined by the alleged savings with the use of nuclear fuel vs. what would have to be spent at today's inflated oil prices. It should be noted, that \$780 million potential benefit is reduced by one million dollars each day the plant is not open. Considering the following points that will be built into other scenarios, you will see the plant is a financial disaster and, based on economics alone, should never be allowed to open.

The scenario outlined in the draft report built in \$1.5 billion for new coal fired generating plants which, it is claimed would be needed if Shoreham does not operate. However, it has been plainly shown to the commission members that there will be no need for new sources of electricity until the late 1990's. This is based upon rates remaining stable, and with no forced conservation action, which would cause raising future rates even more.

The need for coal-fired plants scenario, however, does not take into

consideration the availability, as was pointed out by Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner in an appearance before the commission, of current power lines under the Long Island Sound, owned and operated jointly by Con Edison and LILCO, which could be upgraded by using modern technology to increase their carrying capacity from a little over 500 megawatts to over 2000 megawatts. This could make available low cost PASNY and hydroelectric generated power from upstate and Canada - which is currently being denied us - in amounts four times the expected production of the Shoreham nuclear plant. Hochbrueckner estimates these lines could be upgraded before 1990, at a cost of about \$230 million. Obviously, if we could get low cost power made available to us, we would not need new coal plants in the foreseeable future. These costs should come out of the scenario, which would bring the open vs. not open figures closer still.

Most importantly, the draft report factors into its scenario the prospect of ratepayers absorbing 100 per cent of the mistakes made by the management of LILCO in its Shoreham fiasco. It has been conservatively estimated in the past there may be \$500 million worth of imprudent decisions made by LILCO's management that should not be factored into the rate base to be borne by ratepayers, whether the plant opens or does not. That figure is about one-sixth of the entire Shoreham project.

Further, an official from the Attorney General's office stated recently that if a plant is neither used nor useful in generating electricity, the cost of that plant should not be built into the rate base at all. If this law is upheld in the courts, where it will surely be heard, the ratepayers would be held harmless and the stockholders, not the ratepayers, would be forced to absorb the entire costs of the Shoreham plant.

The scenario in the draft report which was leaked painted the best possible picture for LILCO. All other reasonable scenarios protect the ratepayer and condemn the corporation. They unequivocally indicate to any sane, reasonable person,

Shoreham was a dastardly mistake from a financial viewpoint. As Wilfred Uhl, LILCO president, said in his closing remarks to the Shoreham Commission, "...in knowing what we know now, if we had to do it over

again, we wouldn't."

Why continue to waste more of the corporation's assets, and people's resources? When a ship is too full of holes, sink it!

And why not?

'Power For The People'!

If there was ever any doubt that the people of Suffolk County who fear and oppose the opening of the Shoreham nuclear plant are fighting against the big bucks of business interests, those doubts are now lifted by the wave of political activity in the current race for the county's top seat.

Patrick Halpin, the Democratic candidate who hopes to unseat Republican Peter F. Cohalan, has become the darling of the business leaders. Halpin's pro-Shoreham stance - he believes we should stop fighting LILCO - coincides with the views of big business, or a portion of it at least. Cohalan, on the other hand, opposes the opening of Shoreham and has been feuding with the Long Island Association, strongly pro-LILCO.

Into the picture comes the chairman of the Power Authority of the State of New York, John Dyson. He is, you may remember, the man who has come up with some PASNY power for Grumman, and has promised more for other business firms. But he has made no effort to provide low cost PASNY power for the common folks here on Long Island who are being belted by LILCO bills.

That is the reason Suffolk Life, in its Power for the People campaign, has launched a suit against PASNY, LILCO, and Grumman in an effort to secure PASNY power for the public. That suit seeks punitive damages against PASNY and LILCO for their discrimination against Suffolk residents in making low cost power available for upstate residents, and businesses here on Long Island, but none for the people.

PASNY attorneys have requested delay in responding to that suit until October 26, and we await their responses. Meanwhile, Dyson is busy with other matters, such as helping to

raise funds for Halpin. Dyson recently wrote a letter inviting people to a \$250 per person fund-raising breakfast for Halpin on Wall Street, the big bucks capital. Dyson noted: "Patrick feels that the county executive should work with business, not against it..." Or to put it another way, he should work against people, not for them.

And on October 27 - the day after the requested delay date - Dyson will be the special guest of honor at a Long Island Business Leaders for Patrick Halpin cocktail party. The tab is \$100 per person.

This connection is interesting. Here is a man who doles out low cost PASNY power to his friends in big business, but none for the people, working hard for a candidate who wants us to stop fighting LILCO on Shoreham, a project which Dyson himself has described as a "pig in a poke." The magnetic lure of money sure produces strange alliances.

If anything, all of this reinforces Suffolk Life's dedication to the Power for the People cause. We're tired of having the profit motives of big business getting priority over the needs of the public. We will not sit back and twiddle our thumbs while the big buck boys plot how to shove Shoreham down our throats, huge rate increase and all, while they reach out to grab the low cost power the public so desperately needs.

No matter how much money Dyson and his business leader alliances manage to raise for Halpin's campaign, it's going to be you, the people, who will make the ultimate difference, for what they have in the power of money you have in the strength of votes.

Power for the People!

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Lou Grasso:

I just read your column "A Way Out for Shoreham" and I must say that it is a brilliant and refreshing way to look at perhaps Long Island's most serious dilemma. I know that in part it was tongue-in-cheek, but I also think that there are some excellent suggestions tucked away in that theory of yours that may be a realistic answer to the current dilemma. The most important part is that anything that is done should be borne by that level of government that waltzed us into the dilemma, and that is the federal government that was the strongest advocate of nuclear power in the fifties.

It was also the federal government through their regulatory agencies that have escalated the cost of Shoreham to the incredible pricetag it has today.

I think that your creative thinking is something that we definitely need on Long Island.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

Michael A. LoGrande
Supervisor

Editor Note: To give credit where credit is due, the idea of using Shoreham as a research

facility came from a former Shoreham worker, Jock McCrystal, whose experiences there led him to the conclusion Shoreham should not be opened for operation.

Dear David Willmott,

We are happy to be, and have been subscribers to your great paper for some time, also a partner in "Power for the People," when we read in yesterday's issue that the class action suit has been prepared and the papers already served.

We were especially pleased, but not surprised, to read that Marchese and Sallah have volunteered their time to help, as Mr. Jess Marchese is our family lawyer.

Keep up the good work and God bless! And why not?

Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Wood
Ridge

Dear Mr. Willmott:

If I could afford it, this check would be much greater. I am a Senior Citizen - widowed and am 100 per cent against Shoreham. So many of us think of moving away should Shoreham open!! More power to you for your efforts.

Lillian Hoffman

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Willmotts and Why-Nots

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Decision Time Nears

With Election Day less than two weeks away, candidates are picking up the pace of their campaigns hoping to reach as many of the electorate as possible before the day of decision arrives. That is good, for an informed public is the key to the selection of the best possible candidates to lead us through the problem-filled future.

With this in mind, Suffolk Life has been actively involved in the past several months targeting on the issues, preparing profiles of candidates on the town and county levels, developing an extensive questionnaire which puts the candidates on the record on a myriad of subjects, and conducting personal interviews with all county candidates within our coverage area, and those seeking town board positions.

Our interviews, which are time consuming, exhaustive and enlightening, provide an important basis for Suffolk Life's editorial endorsements which will appear in the November 2 issue. Our endorsements are arrived at not on the basis of politics or personal interest, but, rather, on which candidate will best serve his constituents and face the problems which lie ahead.

The endorsements are the consensus of the editorial board at Suffolk Life, based on the information which comes from the personal interviews, the candidate's past experience and track record, and a careful examination of the manner in which the candidate addresses the problems of his constituents: are proposed solutions well thought out or do they smack of empty, political promises.

The interviews cover a two-hour span, with one-half hour meeting with the challengers, a one-hour joint session with all candidates in the race for a particular office, and one-half hour with the incumbents. The individual interviews are designed to

gather pertinent data about the candidates, while the joint sessions target on the issues. Because of scheduling conflicts not all interviews included the joint session, unfortunately. In those instances the candidates were interviewed separately.

Following the interviews the editorial board meets to fully discuss the candidates and the issues involved. The board members vote their choices, and majority rules. The endorsements are, thus, the consensus of the editorial board rather than arbitrary selection.

In the event an editorial board member feels strongly for a candidate not endorsed by the board, that member may write an opposing point of view, which has been done twice in recent years.

The endorsements are not an attempt to tell our readers how to vote, but an honest effort to guide them to a wise decision. Our non-political endorsement system offers voters the advantage of the many hours of time our editorial board spends in covering the campaigns, the candidates and the issues.

We urge our readers to study the endorsement decisions reached by Suffolk Life's editorial board, study the questionnaires published last week and this, and decide for themselves which of the candidates reflects their own views on the important issues. Above all, be sure to vote on Election Day, November 8. There are vital issues to be faced, and we need to have responsible public officials deciding how we will meet those problems.

If you are not concerned enough to elect the best candidates to prepare the solutions, don't complain about the problems later. Your government can only be responsible if you are.

And why not?

Proposal No. 10 County Question No. 2

County Proposition No. 2 asks for voter approval to set up a power agency on paper that will allow the County to enter into an agreement with P.A.S.N.Y. to purchase its share of the low-cost state-generated electricity created by P.A.S.N.Y. It is, however, not exactly clear what kind of savings can be expected by the creation of this legal sham.

Under State law, P.A.S.N.Y. cannot sell the power it generates directly to a commercial, profit-making utility such as LILCO. It is believed that P.A.S.N.Y. could sell its power to a publically-created agency, which would pass this electricity, at cost, through to LILCO to be mixed and transmitted with LILCO's high cost energy.

In theory, proponents say, a paper authority can eventually reduce the cost of electricity for Long Islanders by 2 to 3 per cent. County Proposition No. 2 is a shot in the dark but, like County Proposition No. 1, it is better than what we have.

It costs very little to establish, and may bring to the consumers some relief. An overwhelming response by the public may give the County

Legislature the needed encouragement to realistically look at condemning LILCO and converting it from a profit-making corporation to a municipally-owned, not-for-profit, utility.

Not-for-profit municipal utilities throughout the country are producing electricity for the consumers at rates substantially below those in the surrounding communities owned by profit-making corporations. Here on Long Island, Greenport, Freeport and Rockville Center are served by municipally-owned electrical companies, and the electrical rates are up to one-third less than what LILCO charges for the same service.

Vote "yes" on County Proposition No. 2 so we can get our fair share.

And why not?

YES
 NO

PROPOSAL NO. 10
COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. 2
PROPOSITION FOR ESTABLISHING
A SUFFOLK COUNTY ELECTRIC AGENCY

Shall Resolution No. 598-1983, adopting a local law, for the purpose of creating a Suffolk County Electric Agency to purchase and sell hydroelectric power from any source at no net cost to the County of Suffolk, be approved?

YES
 NO

PROPOSAL NO. 1, A PROPOSITION
REBUILD NEW YORK THROUGH TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL BOND ISSUE

To promote and assure the preservation, renewal and improvement of the state's vital transportation systems, facilities and equipment for the benefit of the inhabitants of the state, shall section one of chapter eight hundred thirty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred eighty-three, enacting and constituting the "REBUILD NEW YORK THROUGH TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL BOND ACT OF 1983" authorizing the creation of a state debt in the amount of one billion two hundred fifty million dollars (\$1,250,000,000) for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, reconditioning and preservation of transportation systems and facilities, including the acquisition of equipment, be approved?

Vote No State Proposal No. 1

The rebuild New York bond issue is one of the worst examples of a proposition that has ever been put before the voters. Governor Mario Cuomo proposed this 30-year, \$1.25 billion bond issue, allegedly, to rebuild some of our roads, bridges and mass transportation facilities. What Cuomo and crowd want to do is put us in debt for 30 years to pay for road and bridge construction and repairs that should be taken out of current revenues raised.

A good portion of the road work proposed will not last the 30 years it will take to finance. In addition, a disproportionate amount of the funds raised through this bond issue will go off Long Island to pay for pork barrel public works projects upstate.

Just this past weekend we were in Albany. We looked with envy upon the super roadways connecting the city. They make the roadways surrounding New York City look pitiful by comparison. Most of the cities in upstate New York, like Albany, have equally superior major roadways that allow fast and comfortable travel to and from the downtown areas without hours of waiting on traffic jammed roads. Obviously the politicians upstate outsmarted the downstate representatives and have received

the lion's share of major road projects in the past, just as they will under State Proposition No. 1.

The state currently raises billions of dollars from licensing, road use and fuel taxes, more than is needed to pay for ongoing repairs and rebuilding. These user-taxes, instead of being applied to transportation needs, are funneled into the general funds of the state. They are spent willy-nilly on everything except what they were intended for.

The governor, and the legislature, do not need to place the taxpayers of New York State in debt for 30 years to pay for repairs that are already being charged for through user fees. What the State Legislature should do, and the governor should encourage, is to develop a transportation trust fund into which user fees flow. This trust fund should be used to pay for the repair and the rebuilding of bridges, roads and tunnels out of current receipts.

Until the legislature sensibly approaches taxes and their disbursement, we encourage all voters to turn thumbs down on this Cuomo pork barrel. Vote "No" on State Proposition No. 1.

And why not?

Proposal No. 9 County Question No. 1

California had its famous Proposition 13, a voter-mandated cap on the State's spending and taxes. It passed and became law. Expenses were cut and taxes were held to previous levels, and were reduced in others.

Voters of Suffolk County will have an opportunity to vote on a similar measure, but in a much weakened form, this November 8. County Question No. 1 asks voters for approval to limit the County's budget to a 4 per cent increase, or the percentage of increase of the cost of living index for the given budget year.

The increase covers all non-mandated costs and services. For the

budget to be increased above the 4 per cent level, a 75 per cent majority vote of the County Legislature will be

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YES
 NO

PROPOSAL NO. 9
COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. 1
PROPOSITION FOR LIMITING
INCREASES IN EXPENDITURES
IN THE SUFFOLK COUNTY
OPERATING BUDGET

Shall Resolution No. 516-1983, adopting a Charter Law for the purpose of imposing a ceiling on the increases in a portion of the Suffolk County Operating Budget each year, equal to the greater of four (4%) percent or the rise in the GNP Price Deflator for the previous fiscal year unless a larger increase is adopted by a vote of three-quarters of the Suffolk County Legislature, be approved?

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and Suffolk County 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

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