

The children's best interests

A mother of a student, a taxpayer of the Connetquot School District, called last week and frantically asked if we would address the children of this district.

The district's teachers have been in negotiations with the school board over the terms of a new contract. Instead of these negotiations being confined to management and labor, the children, the students of Connetquot, were brought into the negotiating process as pawns. This is wrong. The teachers, who are supposed to be professionals, should be reprimanded for some of the stunts they have pulled.

Coaches who are paid not only as teachers but for coaching duties threatened to quit as coaches, now that the season has begun, unless the teachers' demands were met. According to some students, some teachers have threatened to scuttle the senior prom. The teachers have taken their negotiations into the classroom and, other students claim, are not really teaching. They were, reportedly, involved in a slow down.

Last week, 300 students were allowed to leave the building, in fact, the parent claimed, they were encouraged to leave the building. They went to the board of education building and protested the board's refusal to give in. We think that the students, instead

of allowing themselves to be used as pawns, should understand what is going on.

The teachers were demanding wage increases of 8.5 percent, plus Excellence in Teaching funds given by the state, plus usual increments. They wanted even more enriched benefits.

The average teacher's salary in this district is \$47,531. On top of this, the district pays approximately 35 percent more in benefits, bringing the average cost of a teacher to over \$64,000 per year. Teachers work 180 days per year by contract, while your parents work at least 240 or more days. This means that the district pays the average teacher \$375 per day. By contract, their classroom day is approximately six hours and 30 minutes, or 5 classes of 42 minutes each. The balance of the time is used for lunch, prep work and other non-teaching activities. The cost to the district per classroom hour taught is about \$60 per hour. This is what teachers are currently receiving; they want more.

The average per capita family income in the Connetquot School District, according to available National Planning Data statistics, is approximately \$39,099 per year. This is the combined income of the husband, the wife and any other family member who may be working. The norm on Long Island is people work 40 hours

per week, 48 weeks a year, for a total of 1920 hours. Most people on Long Island make under \$15 per hour, the great majority under \$10, and do not receive anywhere near the benefits those in education do. Yes, there are doctors and lawyers, some business people, and other professionals who make a great deal more. But they are not the only ones being asked to finance the cost of education. Everyone in the community pays for education. One of the main sources of funds for education comes from the people who own homes and properties. More than 60 percent of the real estate taxes goes to pay educational assessments.

As you have seen throughout your neighborhoods, there are "For Sale" signs on every street. The majority of folks who have put up the "For Sale" signs have not put their homes up by choice. The real estate taxes they have been burdened with have become too great for them to carry. Instead of fighting, they are leaving, giving up families, friends, jobs and the way of life they prefer.

The cost of education over the last ten years has skyrocketed even as student populations have declined. Instead of taking advantage of the reduction in the number of students to be educated, the administrators, the school boards and the teacher unions have reduced class sizes and expanded

the number of programs being offered. This was done in most instances to preserve jobs.

Most of us are guilty of feeling that all the money that we can afford to invest in education was a good deal. This has not proven to be true. Too many students on Long Island cannot perform basic math calculations. An astounding number cannot read on a high school level. We, as your parents, your elders, have failed you. We have taken the easy road. We have thrown money at the problem without holding those who are responsible for the distribution of this money accountable for the productivity of the investment.

The teachers who are the main beneficiaries have gotten used to receiving wage increases far above what your Mom and Dad and the other folks on your block are able to earn. They now want more, and are using the kids to win their argument. The school board is recognizing the error of its past ways. It also recognizes the inability of more and more people within the community to absorb increased taxes. The board realizes that if it gives in to the teachers' demands and the taxes on your homes are increased to pay for it, Mom will have to feed you more macaroni and less meat. Put off the visit to the doctor, drive the car a little longer on unsafe tires, and by hundreds of other ways they will try to get by.

They also realize that giving the teachers more money will not necessarily improve the quality of education you receive. One more child will not learn the basic concepts of math or comprehend the words they are reading because the teacher salaries are raised.

There was a day and an age on Long Island when teachers were underpaid. There was a time teachers taught more for love and dedication than financial reward. We don't want to see teachers ever become second-class citizens again. But by the same token, they have to realize that raises should be earned, not simply granted. The average raise within the district should not exceed the average increase in income within the district, in other words, inflation. That each area has an ability to pay that must be respected.

Students, it's the school board that needs your support, and your parents who need your loyalty. Don't allow yourself to be swayed by the statements and actions of your teachers when it comes to their salary negotiations. They are there to educate you, not use you to satisfy their demands. Put yourself in the shoes of your parents—remember in a few short years you will be out on your own and responsible for the bills. Don't expect your parents to dig deeper into their own pockets to meet the demands of the teachers. Put yourself in their position. How much of your allowance, or the money you make in part-time jobs are you willing to give to the teachers? Would you be so willing to protest for their demands if you were footing the bill?

And why not?

Privatize the infirmary

We have disagreed with County Executive Patrick Halpin on many issues in the past, particularly on the cost of running our government. But we cannot disagree with Halpin, in fact, we support his concept, to privatize the county infirmary.

The infirmary is a very old, dilapidated structure to which we send the elderly and infirm who have no monetary resources, to spend the last days of their life. The staff is, for the most part dedicated, loving and caring, whose efforts are hampered by the condition of the facility.

Private, nonprofit organizations generally of religious sponsorship both Christian and Jewish have expressed interest in operating this facility, building a new, up-to-date modern structure, and operating it on a not for profit basis. The county would continue to place their charges in this institution, and would pay a fee to the operating organization.

Studies have indicated the fee would be less than the cost to the county of operating the infirmary. The quality of care would be improved immensely. The dedicated staff would be retained. It appears that this proposal is a win-win situation. Better care and service to the residents, less cost to the taxpayers.

The county legislature is trying to force Halpin into building a new county facility. The cost of a new infirmary would add greatly to our

bonded indebtedness, and the cost of caring for the residents would accelerate as additional staff would have to be hired.

We suspect that those legislators who are trying to force this move are putting the interest of the unions, who want control of the workers, over the best interests of the residents. We suspect that some politicians want the benefits of political contributions from the public works contractors

Give her the gas

The feasibility study on converting the Shoreham nuclear power plant to a natural gas generating facility is in. The verdict is that it is feasible, it's doable and, in the end, it would be economical.

This should be a fitting end for the Long Island tragedy of Shoreham, converting the investment we have been forced to make twice into an asset.

Natural gas makes sense as there is an abundance of the fuel here in the United States and the proposed Iroquois pipeline should bring in an adequate supply from Canada. L.I.P.A. has the authority to make the conversion and should. The sooner

who see this as another grand opportunity to dig into the Suffolk County taxpayers' pockets.

Halpin should pull out all stops. The legislators who are up to no good should back down. The only consideration should be that which is in the best interests of the people the infirmary is designed to serve. Can't we leave politics and financial greed out of an issue that deserves compassion?

And why not?

the guts of the nuclear reactor can be ripped out of Shoreham, the better Long Islanders will feel. Conversion to natural gas would make use of the generating and transmission facilities at Shoreham and give the people some return on their investment. Elimination of the nuclear source for power would give them a safer future.

A gas conversion of Shoreham, along with meaningful conservation measures, could alleviate our power problem for decades to come. It's time for the talk to stop and the action to begin.

And why not?

If not, speak up!

Can you take any more?

Long Island residents, homeowners, are reeling under the weight of real estate taxes. The "For Sale" signs are piled by the dozens. The citizens are in rebellion. Too many can't take anymore.

The plight of Long Islanders was lost on the governor and the state legislature who decided they could, after all, carry more. The governor raised taxes on a whole host of new items and increased taxes on such necessities as electricity, oil and gas. Saddam Hussein did his part with the invasion of Kuwait. Gas jumped from \$1 to \$1.50 per gallon, and even more. Fuel oil went from just over 60 cents a gallon to \$1.35. You can hear the backs of the citizens creaking and

breaking under this burden.

Where is the money going to come from? Salaries already kept down by a weak economy can't be raised. The moans of the taxpayer were overshadowed by the demands of the special interest groups, the bureaucrats and the bureaucracy.

President Bush, read his phony lips, announced with Democratic and Republican legislators a whole round of new taxes on the federal level. They have been met with an uproar which should become a rebellion. The taxpayers cannot pay any more. Government must be cut back. The federal government is a slush bucket of wasted billions.

You can do your part by calling

and writing your congressmen and senators. Their addresses and telephone numbers are:

Congressman George Hochbrueckner, 1008 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 516-689-6767

Congressman Thomas J. Downey, Room 2232, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515, 516-661-8777

Congressman Robert J. Mrazek, Room 306, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515, 516-673-6500

The senators are D'Amato and

Moynihan. Their addresses and phone numbers are:

Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, Room 520, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510, 212-947-7393

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Room 464, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510, 212-661-5150

Call them. Call morning, noon and night. Let them hear your anger, your frustration. Tell them you want the budget brought in below Gramm-Rudman. There is plenty of fat to be cut, programs can be eliminated. You expect them to do their job now. If they don't, you will find yourself a new congressman this November when they are all up for re-election.

Remind Downey and Mrazek you are still angry at their raid on your pocketbook by voting themselves a \$35,000, one-third raise in pay this spring.

Tell Hochbrueckner who voted "no" on the pay raise that you understand the game that was played in Washington. Leadership considered his vote a "throw away" as they had the numbers they needed, and because he was from a marginal district they allowed him to vote "no."

After you get finished giving your congressmen a piece of your mind, you better head for town hall. Your supervisors have presented their budgets and they haven't heard you either. Increases have been announced up to 27 percent. Some towns, particularly in the western sectors of Suffolk, appear to have no or small tax increases. That's a shell game too, because what they have done is play smoke and mirrors and shifted the cost that was formerly in the tax rate to special garbage districts. When you put the two numbers together, garbage plus assessments for town government, they are taking more out of your hide than they have before.

Citizens on Long Island very simply can't take any more. We have got to fight back with every weapon we have, and the biggest weapon you have is your mouth and your vote. It's the only way we can stop the ever-increasing cost of government that returns to you, the citizens, so little.

Don't leave it to Harry to do it, do it yourself. Call, write, attend meetings, bring a friend. Don't be intimidated, be angry. Let them feel our wrath, our frustration. Let them know you hold them accountable and you are not taking any more.

And why not?

Politics or leadership?

Suffolk County Executive Patrick Halpin has called for a budget summit meeting among county officials to discuss the possibility of changes in his proposed \$1.3 billion budget for 1991. He has asked members of the Suffolk County Legislature to join with him in an effort to share views on how the budget can be modified to reach a consensus of agreement.

According to Halpin, members of his financial staff, those of the Legislature's Budget Review Office, and County Comptroller Joseph Caputo would be on hand during the summit to offer their financial expertise in the review of the spending plan, and possible changes in its figures.

Since the proposal for a budget summit was first aired in this space several weeks ago, we obviously think such a gathering is a very good idea. We said on September 12 that if "Halpin was truly concerned about the county's plight, he would have done the following: First he would have called a special meeting of the legislators, all the legislators, both Republicans and Democrats. And then he would have said something like this: 'We have a serious financial problem in this county. Our costs are escalating above the ability of the people to pay, and we must work together to find solutions. Let's put politics aside; let's put our heads together and work as a team to resolve this problem.'" Well, Halpin has now done exactly that.

We offer the same words today to members of the Suffolk County Legislature, most especially Presiding Officer Donald Blydenburgh, who has rejected Halpin's invitation to the summit gathering. Blydenburgh's action is a disappointment. We had begun to believe that while the legislature is far from being a model of

governmental efficiency, under Blydenburgh's leadership it is less of a funny farm than it has been in the past, and the presiding officer has not been as politically tainted as it was under other presiding officers.

Until now, Blydenburgh's rejection is not based on any desire to do what is best for the people, it is based on what he feels are past rebuffs from Halpin, and politics, pure and simple.

According to a Blydenburgh spokesperson, the presiding officer is upset because invitations offered to Halpin to sit in on legislative budget hearings were ignored by the county executive. "He didn't come to my meetings and now I'm not going to go to his," is an attitude that might satisfy Blydenburgh's feelings. But it won't do anything to develop a workable budget that will offer tax relief for the public and human services for those who need them.

Blydenburgh has been quoted as saying: "Now that he's shown his inability to prepare a budget document, it's up to us to do the responsible thing." That's politics. It's easy to blame Halpin for all the budget ills, and that is what the Republicans are trying to do as an early start to the 1991 campaign. But it's hardly accurate.

Sure, Halpin has not shown himself to be a financial genius. His budget estimates have turned out drastically wrong in some instances. And he has been the target of an outpouring of criticism, much of it justly deserved. But give us a break, Don! When did the members of the Suffolk County Legislature start doing "the responsible thing" in budget matters? The budget totals are not the sole responsibility of Patrick Halpin. The legislature, time and again over the

years, has been driving the cost of government sky high with giveaway contracts, special interest programs, patronage plums and excess staffing. It has often been said that if three women with babies appear before the legislature demanding a program or a project, the legislators will cave in. And when it comes to overestimating revenue figures to soften the impact of their spending habits, the legislators take a back seat to no one.

The budget cuts and the layoffs threatened today are the product of those spending habits. We warned back in 1983 that an ultra-lucrative CSEA contract which legislators first rejected, then folded under pressure and approved, would result in a tremendous tax increase and the elimination of jobs. That day is here, and those legislators who were there then and are still there today must bear the blame, not Halpin.

Would it have been better if Halpin took part in the legislative budget sessions? Perhaps. But boycotting the budget summit because he didn't is hardly an example of adult leadership. And certainly not what an elected official, particularly the presiding officer, should be doing.

We sincerely hope Don Blydenburgh will change his mind and be at the budget summit today, joined by all the members of the legislature. Those who do not participate will, in our view, be thumbing their noses at the taxpayers, putting politics above their responsibility to the people who elected them. We sincerely hope they leave their political labels outside the door and meet in a cooperative attitude. Leave the politics to the campaign next year. Do the people's business today!

And why not?

Can you afford more debt?

New York State's long-term bonded indebtedness has increased by 49 percent since Mario Cuomo became governor. It's double the nation's average. Governor Cuomo wants to add \$1,975,000,000 to this indebtedness through the passage of what he calls an Environmental Bond Issue. It will cost an additional \$2 billion in interest to pay this debt off over its lifetime.

Normally, a bond issue is for a specific purpose, for an item so large it cannot be funded out of general tax revenues, for a need so imperative that it requires immediate attention.

The New York State budget is over \$50 billion per year. We are the highest taxed people in the nation. We spend on our government close to 50 percent more than the average state spends on itself. Part of this spending is the repayment of our long-term debt that has been incurred by bond issues.

This year's raid on the taxpayer is cloaked under the motherhood issue, the environment. Don't be fooled by the title. It should be called "The Voodoo Bond Issue." The governor's package does not spell out specific needs, it doesn't detail the allocations by dollar

nor the specific direction the funds will go. What it does is give the governor a blank check.

What few details that are available indicate that our number one need, the closure of the landfills, an action mandated by the state, will only receive token attention with expenditures of \$175,000,000 from this bond issue being spent over the next ten years, state-wide.

Long Island's landfills have been ordered to be closed by December 19 of this year. The cost of closing the state-wide landfills is estimated to be over \$1

billion. Yet, the governor's voodoo bond issue provides less than 17 percent. In addition, the bond issue does not say, there is no letter of agreement, that Long Island will receive its prorated share.

In past bond issues, monies raised from Long Islanders has been sunk into New York City and gone north. We are left here on Long Island to pay for the state and then pay for our own problems.

State-owned facilities, through benign neglect and mismanagement, are in violation of the state environmental laws. Money from this bond issue is earmarked to clean up the state's facilities. We are being asked to borrow money again, and to pay the taxes on it, plus interest, to clean up the state's own house that has not been effectively managed.

Money from this bond issue is earmarked to build parks and recreational facilities. Most notably a major facility on the West Side of Manhattan from Battery Park to 59th Street. Don't you smell something wrong with this rat? How much more money are we going to be asked to sink into this garbage hole called New York City. Why should all residents of New York State be asked to pay for a park in the city we will never use and then have to, through our town taxes, buy and pay for parks in our own backyard?

Much of what is in the bond issue should normally be funded through the state budget. But this voodoo scheme is trying to get you to approve extra dollars so the state legislators, and the governor, can continue the reckless and wasteful spending which has driven this state to the brink of bankruptcy.

If you only do one thing on Election Day, go to the polls and vote "no" on this raid on your pocketbook. The 1990 E.Q.B.A. is a voodoo economic package that has more to do with bailing out the current budget than the purity of the water you drink in a glass. It's a masterful Cuomo con job covered with the cloak of "environment." Say no, and deliver the message that a happy home environment that you can afford is the top priority.

And why not?

Cut the county budget

County Executive Patrick Halpin, in trying to shed his nickname of "High Tax Halpin," has presented a budget for the coming year that, although it increases spending, holds the line on real estate taxes. One of the major features of the budget is a \$13 million increase in the expenditures for police coupled with a reorganization of the police department that eliminates a major portion of its bureaucracy by reassigning officers back to patrolmen.

According to Halpin, 50 percent of the Suffolk County Police Department is involved in administrative work. One out of every two cops is sitting behind a desk instead of being viable and out on the street. The proposed budget calls for elimination of 297 county jobs, a reduction of just over two percent of the county work force. Without this reduction, county real estate taxes would have to be increased, according to Halpin, by close to \$200 per year per household.

Union officials, both from the police and the civil service workers' unions, are screaming bloody murder. They are not only asking, they are demanding, that the hard-pressed citizens of Suffolk County pay more. One union official was even quoted as saying, "the taxpayers expect to pay more."

Halpin is not laying off cops, he is putting cops to better use doing what they were trained and hired to do.

Halpin has offered the unions a way to eliminate the need for firing the county workers with a menu of options: a postponement of the negotiated wage increases for six months, voluntary non-paid days off, a lag payroll which would delay paychecks for two weeks. The unions are screaming that they are not going to give an inch. They are going to bombard the county legislature, flood the public hearings, pay for radio and television time that will feature legislators supporting the union cause and castrating Halpin for trying to hold the line.

We believe that Halpin can avoid a lot of the heat by announcing that his management staff and the higher priced exempt employees, who are often in their jobs because of politics rather than ability, are going to lead the way by taking cuts in their own salaries. That the suffering brought on by the county's financial crisis is going to be spread out across all levels.

A former LILCO executive, Pete Candela, at a county Tax PAC meeting last week where Halpin made a presentation of his budget, told how he and other LILCO executives took cutbacks in their pay when the company was in trouble. Salaries of top executives were reduced by 15 percent, of the lower echelon of executives by ten percent, the middle managers by five percent. Can-

dela's proposal made sense. These people are at the top of the income ladder in the county. We are in desperate financial shape. They should lead the way. Show their willingness and understanding of our financial plight. If they cut their salaries, the rank and file of the county should be willing to make sacrifices also. The legislature should join in. They are paid handsomely for their part-time jobs. Their perks aren't shabby either.

Collectively, the legislature and the county executive, present and past, have gotten us in the mess we are in. They have got to get us out of it.

Voters should note those legislators who allow themselves to be used by the unions. Those who appear on radio and television with commercials paid for by the unions, encouraging increases in taxes to fund increased giveaways to the unions. They are not the taxpayers' friends.

We encourage you to contact your legislators, tell them you are not satisfied with Halpin's budget. It's a good start, but it doesn't go far enough. You can't suffer anymore, you have nothing more to give. Turn out at the public hearings, voice your opinions, don't allow yourself to be intimidated by those who have a vested interest in the budget.

And why not?

Point of view:

Common sense: who has it, who doesn't

By Robert A. Villa

In the October 3 issue of your paper there was an article titled "DEC czar defends landfill closing law." In the article Commissioner Jorling is quoted as saying "It is just common sense that if you put something in the ground, when rain falls, that material will leach into the groundwater." The problem with the DEC is that they have no common sense. That is why the Suffolk County Department of Health Services wrote the report on the effects of landfills on groundwater. This report clearly states that landfills are not a serious threat to the drinking water supply in Suffolk County. After its release, there was a great deal of pressure put on the department and Commissioner Harris to suppress it and as a result of the pressure, the report was declared to be a draft and still under review. Call it what you may, the facts remain as stated.

Commissioner Jorling also is quoted in the article as saying that there have been "studies upon studies" to indicate that landfilling pollutes groundwater. NYSDEC has no such study of their own on this problem on Long Island and I challenge Commissioner Jorling to produce such a study. The one source of comprehensive groundwater studies is the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and their highly trained engineering experts all feel that the landfill law is a classic case of overkill that will force the taxpayers of this county to expend many, many millions of dollars with little or no benefit to the drinking water supply of the county.

Commissioner Jorling, in a further quote, goes on to state that for proof that landfills pollute "look at Babylon, where they have a pump in action" pumping out leachate at their landfill. Yes, let's look at Babylon, which is by far the worst case of a town's disposal program. For years, the town operated a scavenger waste plant at the site which handled

over 100,000 gallons per day of scavenger and industrial wastes which were then recharged to the groundwater. This plant was of questionable design and seldom operated satisfactorily. The landfill site also contained the town highway sandmining operation and a commercial sandmining operation that excavated sand to at least 40 to 50 feet into groundwater. The garbage landfilled into the excavated areas is actually below the water table over much of the site. Despite this horrendous situation, the groundwater plume down gradient from the site is far less of a pollution problem than some of the plumes caused by certain industries or petroleum sources. While there is a definite plume from this site, it points out that it has not affected the drinking water supply as the Suffolk County Water Authority and the town water districts simply stay away from the area and continue to supply good water to the town's population.

Shifting our attention to the East End where the five
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Governor Cuomo's report card

Governor Mario Cuomo is seeking voter approval for a third term of office. Voters should take a careful, hard look at the governor's record before casting their votes. Here are some areas of importance that should be considered:

Management Style:

Executives choose different management styles. Cuomo has long boasted that he tries to find the best people as managers, gives them an overview of what he wants them to achieve, and then leaves them alone to do their job.

We believe this hands-off approach to management has led to many of the state's problems. Cuomo had Paul Gioia as the head of the Public Service Commission. He kept him on as chairman for over five years, despite a clamor for his ouster. Gioia insulated himself from the public, and was, instead, a servant of the industries he was supposed to be regulating.

During his tenure, he granted numerous rate increases to utilities, including LILCO. Prior to the closing of Shoreham, Long Islanders were paying the highest utility rates in the nation. Cuomo could have removed this man at any time, but he did not. The impact of that action is reflected in your electric bills.

The DEC is another example of the disastrous hands-off management policy of Cuomo. The DEC is an agency that is directly under the control of the governor. The DEC has enormous powers to issue rules and regulations that affect every aspect of our lives. The DEC has been heavy-handed in dealing with individuals and municipalities. It is its own cop, prosecutor, judge, jury and finer.

It is the DEC which, although it was given discretion over the 1983 landfill closure law, is refusing to be reasonable in its approach. Although the law was passed in 1982, the DEC did not develop its own rules and regulations until 1987. Municipalities could not find out what they could or could not do and, as a result, nothing was done. The DEC failed to provide leadership or guidance, to develop a generic plan or pilot plant. This failure has cost municipalities hundreds of millions of dollars in consultants', engineering and legal fees. An expense to the taxpayer that could have, and should have, been avoided.

The DEC has repeatedly stated it fully intends to give no extensions and will close all landfills by December 18. This single move will double the town taxes as the cost of trucking garbage off Long Island will be more than the cost of police, recreation, courts, local jails and the administration combined.

We have pleaded with the governor to intervene with his own commissioner. The governor has responded by saying, "garbage is a local problem." He has failed to accept the responsibility for the law, or provide any assistance or leadership in mitigating its impact. You, the taxpayers, will feel the financial impact of this lack of action.

Cost of Government:

New York State, by almost every standard, is economically one of the worst run states in the nation. Let's just take a look at some of the statistics of the Cuomo administration.

In New York State, per capita spending has increased from \$1,806 to \$2,815 between 1982 and 1987. We spend over \$1,100 per capita more on state government than our neighboring state of Pennsylvania and over \$500 more than California.

New York State's employees cost \$461 per man, woman and child. This is almost double what it cost us when Cuomo took office. It is \$220 more than our neighbor, Pennsylvania, and \$150 more than the average in California.

The per capita tax burden on every man, woman and child will be an average of \$3,198 in state taxes this year. This is \$600 more than California and \$1,200 more than Pennsylvania. The real killer is our outstanding long-term debt. Every man, woman and child in New York State owes \$2,038. In Pennsylvania, their debt is \$775, in California it is \$851.

Taxes overall under Governor Cuomo have increased 60 percent. Between 1982 and 1990, taxes on liquor increased 98 percent. Beer went up a whopping 175 percent, cigarettes, up 70 percent. Motor vehicle licenses jumped 300 percent. Increase in taxes has been Cuomo's most consistent point.

Voters, before they go to the polls on November 6, should ask themselves: "Am I getting my money's worth? What does the state give me now that I didn't have eight

years ago?"

Public Service Commission:

As we mentioned earlier in this editorial, the PSC, which is under the control of Cuomo, has served at the will of the industries, rather than as a protector of the public. It has given in religiously to rate increases sought by utilities.

Take a look at your LILCO or New York Telephone bill. Take a look at your bill eight years ago, and you will see how well you have been served by Governor Cuomo's appointees.

Shoreham:

On the closing of Shoreham, Governor Cuomo has to get high marks. He took a beating from many for his standing up for the people. Although he gets high marks for closing Shoreham, he gets a zero for the deal he made with LILCO. Again, it's a case of appointing people to a position of trust, and leaving them on their own without guidance or direction.

Cuomo appointed Vincent Tesce to conduct the negotiations with LILCO, and Tesce gave away the store. The Wall Street Journal characterized the deal Cuomo made with LILCO as the biggest sweetheart deal ever made. LILCO had recovered almost \$2 billion in construction costs through Construction Work In Progress (CWIP) funds. Imprudent expenditures were to eliminate almost another billion. These credits were wiped out with the governor's deal which permitted LILCO to recover its entire investment through a 76 percent rate increase over the next ten years, paid by Long Islanders.

The backdrop of this whole scenario was that the company was on the verge of bankruptcy and did not have the ability to fight. Cuomo held all the cards, but he lost the hand and we are stuck with paying the bills.

Social Issues:

The governor has steadfastly refused to approve the death penalty. The legislature, both the assembly and the senate, has repeatedly passed a law establishing a death penalty for New York. Cuomo has vetoed it each time.

During Cuomo's eight years in office, felony arrests went from 143,000 to 213,000, a 49 percent increase in crime.

In 1989 there were 2,208 homicides--people killing people without fear of retribution.

Drug arrests went from 18,000 to 63,000. The arrests are not indicative of the widespread use of drugs that has taken place during the Cuomo administration.

Cuomo and Long Island:

Outside of Shoreham, the governor has virtually ignored Long Island except to look upon it as a source of unlimited state revenues.

We believe the most glaring example is the DEC's expenditures on projects. In 1990-'91, the total capital appropriation by the DEC will be \$331 million. Of this, \$13.9 million will be spent on Long Island. A pitiful 4.2 percent, although we send almost 25 percent of the budget to Albany from Long Island. This shows the utter contempt the governor has for the island.

It is estimated that the closure of our landfills alone will cost Long Island municipalities over \$50 million. It will cost us hundreds of millions of dollars to build recycling and incineration plants to meet the state environmental mandates. Why is the governor penalizing Long Island and ignoring our needs and problems?

Transportation:

Almost every other state has a dedicated transportation fund. Taxes collected on motor fuels, tolls and other highway user fees, including licenses and registrations, go into a fund to maintain, repair and build roads and highways.

Cuomo has steadfastly opposed the creation of a dedicated fund for transportation. As a result, our roads, bridges and highways are some of the worst in the nation. We have had to resort to bond issues as a Band-aid. Cuomo has used the budget gimmickry of charging taxes on transportation, then putting the money into the general fund where it obviously ends up being wasted.

Education:

Under Cuomo, the cost of education has skyrocketed. State-wide, we spend twice as much as almost any other state. Here on Long Island we spend three times the nation's average.

Most of us would not begrudge this if we were getting productivity out of our schools. Our students, by comparison and testing, are hard put to it to keep up with the average student throughout the nation.

The governor's budget this year, although \$4 billion higher than last year, cut the aid to local districts by hundreds of millions of dollars. It was only through the insistence of the senate leadership that these funds were restored at the last moment.

In many states the cost of education is solely a state expenditure. The monies are raised state-wide and allocated evenly to the local districts for the education of the students. In the wake of the latest revelations about the state deficit, which Comptroller Ned Regan reports stands at \$246 million for the first six months, Cuomo has already said that he is going to slash local aid as a way of bringing this year's budget into balance. Cuomo is a master at transferring the state cost to local municipalities. That gives him more money to squander at the local taxpayers' expense.

Medicaid:

Medicaid is the health insurance of the poor. Fifty percent of the cost is funded by the federal government in 47 out of the 50 states. The states fund the other 50 percent. *New York is one of the few states that does not fund the state's share. It contributes 23 percent, leaving 27 percent to be made up by the local municipalities. And the local taxpayers.

In Suffolk County, this amounts to about 25 percent of the county budget and is partly responsible for the high cost of real estate taxes. Worse yet, the state mandates the rules and regulations governing Medicaid. Many of these rules are costly and counterproductive.

As an example, California treats twice as many patients than are treated in New York State, but the cost is half as much. This again demonstrates an appalling lack of management and leadership and, worse yet, an appalling lack of concern and action in dealing with the problem.

It has become increasingly apparent Mario Cuomo's real concerns exist outside of New York State, in political ambitions to become president. But while he embarks on that journey for higher office, he is walking away from a tangle of financial indebtedness and crisis that will affect our lives for many years.

We have only hit some of the highlights of the Cuomo administration. The facts are hard to argue with. As Cuomo says in his commercial, "The more you know about Cuomo..."

And why not?

Cuomo's Record	Your Grade	Make Your Vote Count on Nov.
Management style		
Cost of Government:		
Concern for Long Island		
Social Issues		
Concern for Education:		