

# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Full employment and inflation

One of the issues in this year's Presidential race is beginning to take shape. We can have full employment at the cost of abnormal inflation or we can have moderate unemployment and normal inflation.

The Democrats are proposing a job be made available for everyone who wants one. The money needed to pay for these jobs will come from the federal government: part from taxes, but most from their printing presses. As the federal government prints additional money without having the revenues to back it up, inflation is the guaranteed product.

Inflation strikes hardest those on fixed incomes and people who are locked into jobs whose salaries can not be raised because of skill levels or the economic condition of the particular company they are working for.

The United States, over the last twenty years, has an annual average unemployment rate of 5 per cent.

It is calculated the first 4 per cent of our unemployment rate is composed of people who are considered hard-core unemployed, those who have few marketable skills and others who make a living out of not working.

The balance of our unemployment market is made-up of people who sincerely want jobs in their field. Some of these people can obtain jobs outside of their field, but often at a reduced salary. Instead of taking any job, they wait it out as they are receiving unemployment compensation and-or jobs paid off the books.

Inflation has wrought economic havoc on everyone. Salary raises cannot keep up with the cost of living. Retirees have watched what were carefully planned retirement programs designed to enable them to live in relative security in their golden years go up in smoke. Because of inflation, buying a home is now out of reach of an estimated 40 per cent of the market.

Many families have been forced to readjust their eating habits, often times substituting starches and other non-nutritious foods for nourishing staples. People who once traded in their car every three years now are postponing this purchase and squeezing the last miles out of their present vehicle.

Only the government gains from inflation. As workers' incomes increase, the proportion of taxes which government takes is increased, not only in dollars, but in the percentage of the taxable income. We operate on a progressive income tax system designed to make the government the winner during inflation.

Voters must remember when they listen to the rhetoric of the federal candidates there is no Santa Claus. Any program the federal government proposes will be directly paid for by increased taxation or indirectly by inflation by eroding your spendable income. We encourage you to listen to what the candidates are saying, to read carefully their proposals, to scrutinize their ideas. Apply what they say directly to yourself.

Remember, no one but you will pay for the programs they propose. And why not?

## Publish true salaries

Public employees in the past were paid less than employees in the private sector. To compensate for this they had job security and received better benefits.

Today, public workers receive at least comparable salaries, plus they still have better security; in addition the cost of fringe benefits can run as high as 50 per cent of their base salary.

They still want more.

Public employees refuse to acknowledge that the taxpayers who pay their salaries are at the end of their financial rope due to inflation and taxes. A ploy commonly used by public workers in negotiating a new contract is to quote take-home pay as their salary. This is untrue, particularly when the high cost of fringe benefits is not expressed.

When contract disputes become public, municipalities should not hesitate to publish the actual gross salaries plus the cost of benefits the employees receive. They should calculate this real salary, and divide it by the hours worked to obtain the pay per hour public employees receive. When figures are calculated this way the results are startling. It will reveal employees who claim to take home \$10,000 annually, in reality make between \$20.00 and \$25.00 per hour.

We are for public employees receiving adequate and liveable salaries. We also are in favor of taxpayers being able to afford what they are buying. Taxpayers should be given all the

information so they can fairly support the municipality's stand or that of the employees.

Let each taxpayer compare what he makes per hour with what he is paying his public employees. Let the facts speak for themselves. And why not?

## It is easy to register

It is estimated over 30 per cent of the eligible voters will not be registered to vote in this November's election. In the past this deplorable percentage was blamed on cumbersome and confusing pre-registration procedures.

Now it is simple to register. The new registration laws allow mail-in registration. No longer do you have to make a trip to Yaphank or stand in lines on registration days at your local polling place.

To register, just send a letter to the Board of Elections, Yaphank, New York, 11980 or call 924-5700 and request you be sent a registration form. The form is simple to fill out, you'll need no assistance. Return this form to Yaphank and you will be registered to vote in the November election.

We have only ourselves to blame if we do not vote on election day and end up with leadership not responsive to us. Do not pass up this wonderful opportunity to express your own opinion by choosing those you feel will represent you best. And why not?

## Vote no the second time

In the Spring, school districts present to the voters the budget they would like to operate on for the coming school year.

Part of this budget is mandated by the state, part of the budget is elective. The portion mandated by the state covers the basic required subjects and it provides for teaching them and operating the schools.

The balance of the budget is allocated to elective courses the local school board's residents have indicated they would like taught. In addition to this there is a portion of the budget that covers busing, school lunches, some textbooks and extra curricular activities.

If the school board presents a budget the residents feel they can afford, they pass it. If the school board has misread the public's mood, the budget is defeated.

If a budget is voted down, it is a common practice on Long Island for the school board to present pretty much the same budget to the voters a second, third and even fourth time. They know eventually they can wear the resistance of the voter down to a point where you have only those involved in the educational field and parents of students voting. The result is the budget is passed against the will of the majority of the people.


We do not feel this constant re-vote is fair or morally right. The school board should be able to read the mood of the voters the first time around and present a budget they can live with. If they can't and shoot for the stars, they should be made to live with an austerity budget that can provide an adequate education for the students.

The following year the impetus will be for the elimination of subjects that are not necessary for a student to fulfill his educational needs and requirements. Many subjects are not mandated and do not have to be taught. They are sparsely attended by students and in reality rob the system of funds. They add greatly to the tax burden of the residents of the district, causing many anguish when they have to pull the "no" lever in the voting booth.


School boards must learn as the taxpayers have, that they have to live within their means even if it means changing their life style. And why not?

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## Of course it doesn't pay to work

Last Wednesday's Suffolk Life headline proclaimed "It doesn't pay her to work". The story was about a young divorcee attempting to work her way out of the welfare bog. The woman has three pre-school age children.

Janet Russo receives welfare in the form of Aid to Dependent Children to supplement her husband's alimony and child support payments. The woman had taken a job which nets her \$81.00 a week after deductions. Her three children are taken care of by a County day care worker and she is being charged \$96.00 per week for this service.

She asked the logical question, 'Why should I go back to work to lose money?' A very good question it is.

The peculiarities of this case only further highlight the ills of our welfare system. Why is

the County paying \$96.00 per week for baby sitting services while these same services are being offered on the commercial market at rates of \$35.00 to \$45.00 per week?

The classified ad section of Suffolk Life carries a number of ads from women who will babysit in their homes or in a working mother's home.

We called a number of these women and the average rates they charge ranges from \$30.00 to \$45.00 which includes one hot lunch for each child. The women we spoke to said if the children are well behaved they will take up to three at the same rate.

Welfare costs are breaking the backs of the taxpayers and the government.

We hear stories of illegal abuses, but what is even more of a crime in our eyes is the mismanagement of the system. Day care service is

a prime example that the government has to pay two to three times the going rate for a service that a person could secure on his own.

We also wonder why welfare mothers who desire to go back to work are not encouraged to make arrangements with mothers who prefer to stay home by having these women take care of their children for a percentage of the working mother's salary. We have several women working for us who have small children who have made similar arrangements.

The welfare system is dangerously close to collapse because the bureaucratic octopus is strangling itself with some of its arms while trying to bite off the remaining ones. Practical, common sense solutions can solve these obvious problems, and we must begin to implement them. And why not?

## \$21 million -- a high price for thin air

Congratulations fellow Suffering residents! King John and his round table of shining knights and gleaming ladies just spent \$21 million of your money to buy thin air. They implemented the first step of the Farmland Preservation Program.

Your herald was born and raised out here on the East End when there was nothing but potato fields. We stayed here because of the open space and the quality of life the area offered us. We fully support a concept of keeping this area green and in farming for generations to come.

But, we believe King John's Farmland Preservation program is a scandalous waste of our tax money because we end up with nothing tangible when for a little bit more we would have

been able to purchase title to the land.

We have noticed over the last year farms have been offered for sale in the areas of the Farmland Preservation Program at prices equal to and at sometimes less than what Klein indicated he is willing to pay for the development rights alone.

We firmly believe the families who have been farming the land should be allowed to continue farming it as long as the family desires. This could have been accomplished through long-term lease-backs to the farm families. The lease-backs would have provided income or at least equalled the taxes the Town and County will be denied because of the Farmland Preservation bill.

It's too bad our Legislature was buffaloeed into buying an empty barrel when for the same price they could have bought the barrel full to the brim.

This move was only the first step and covers less than one third of the program. The Legislature will have to vote on the other two thirds as they are proposed.

It is not too late for the citizens of Suffolk County to demand the County take full title to the lands they wish to acquire and not just the development rights.

We encourage every resident of Suffolk to speak personally to their local Legislator and let him or her know you will only support the program if the County takes full title and doesn't just buy development rights. And why not?

## You're paying for pure puffery

Suffolk Life recently received from a reader a copy of a newsletter from Lou Howard, a county legislator from the 14th district.

According to our sources, Howard is the only Suffolk County Legislator to have his newsletter printed by the printing unit of the Suffolk County General Services Department at the expense of the taxpayer.

The newsletter is pure puffery. Its contents are not news worthy, informative nor needed by the residents of the 14th district. Yet, every taxpayer in Suffolk County has footed the bill for this printed bull and they may continue to do so.

According to Howard's legislature aide, the newsletter went to Howard's constituents in North Lindenhurst and Babylon totaling 1,700 pieces. He is planning a future mailing to be sent to approximately 1500 residents in the Wyan-

danch area.

The cost of printing the news letter, according to the aide, is charged to the account of the county legislature as a whole, not Howard's expense allotment.


King John and his knights in tarnished armour are going to ruin this county if they continue to spend your money like a bunch of drunken sailors on a binge. Isn't it about time you stood up and screamed loud and clear at these rip-offs? The more you keep your mouth shut the more they feel they can get away with it. Don't be afraid of them.

Most of them are gutless wonders hiding behind their titles which are more important to them than they are to you. Let's tell County Legislator Lou Howard and King John to shape up or ship out. And why not?

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# Kids should be belted

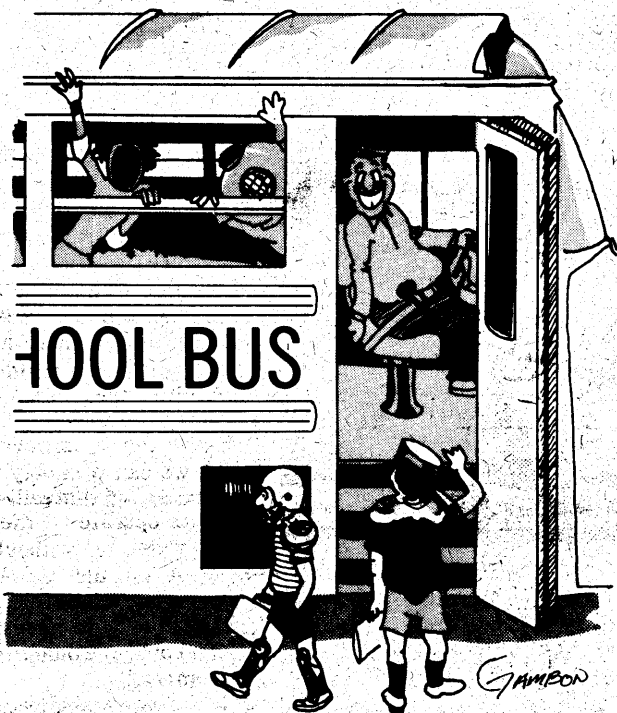
Two school bus accidents in the news last week remind us that when the kids climb aboard those yellow machines, they just may not be in the world's safest vehicles.

To begin with, we've never seen a school bus with seat belts. So whenever a bus does crash into something, or get crashed into, kids fly around inside like so much popcorn popping.

Heads get knocked, arms and legs get twisted and broken, and children get maimed and killed.

Why? What kind of crazy motor vehicle laws permit un-belted school bus seats, but require that adults either belt-up or hear a screaming buzzer in their dashboard?

Seat belts should be installed in school bus seats and kids should be taught to use them. And why not?



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## The political season

Listening to the presidential candidates in their TV debate, we were reminded of some governmental truisms which some of the really great debaters spouted in debates long past.

Like: "A small boy in the visitors' gallery was watching the proceedings of the Senate chamber. "Father, who is that gentleman?" he asked. "That, my son, is the chaplain," replied his father. "Does he pray for the senators?" asked the boy. "No, my son; when he goes in, he looks around and sees the senators sitting there, and

then he prays for the country."

Or Oscar Wilde's "Whenever there is a man who exercises authority, there is a man who resists authority."

And Montesquieu's "Republics end through luxury; monarchies through poverty."

Or Voltaire's "The secret of being tiresome is to tell everything."

An unremembered guy once said, "There is one fixed rule about government -- the less it's worth, the more it costs."

Finally, there's the old definition of Bolshevism: "One Irishman asked another for the definition of Bolshevism. "Well, you see," he said, "if you have two cars, under Bolshevism you keep one for yourself, and give up the other to the state."

"Well, that's fine," said the other.

"And if you have two pianos, you keep one and give the other to the state."

"Ideal!" the friend replied.

"Should you have two cows, likewise, you keep one and give the other to the state."

"That I don't like at all."

"Why not?"

"You see, I have only one car and one piano, but I have two cows!"

And why not?

## Support the Amazin' Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck

Now that summer is officially ended, we can again reflect on the very special summer provided to many of Suffolk's handicapped by the amazing Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck in Center Moriches.

Led by Dave Rodgers, Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck is in its umpteenth year of service to the community.

Founded by the Center Moriches Rotary Club, and literally hundreds of other clubs, organizations and individuals who contribute annually to Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, plus a host of people who help for little or no money, the camp provides a service that is absolutely unique.

Spare money is something which most of us don't have. But if you do have a spare few bucks, right now is the perfect time to put your check in an envelope and send it to Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, Center Moriches, N.Y. 11934.

Chances are you'll get a note in return from Rodgers or Gus Stout, or one of the other local Rotarians who continue to make it all happen, year after year. And why not?

## The world's best

Fall really arrived last week. Not the autumnal equinox fall that we're all used to, the real fall -- the opening of the scallop season!

Ever since hurricane Belle, it's looked like fall on the eastern half of Long Island anyhow, what with brown leaves falling all over the place for the past two months.

But when the new bay scallops (the world's best) show up in local fish stores, that's proof positive that Long Island's own, special fall has arrived.

Mmmmmmmmm! What a delicious way to celebrate a new season! And why not?

## Equal footing against big government

Some months ago we stated that we felt when a person is sued, and the case is deemed unjustified (i.e. the case is lost), the plaintiff should be obligated to pay all legal costs incurred by the person against whom he has brought action.

We had in mind when we wrote this editorial, both individuals who because of their profession or their wealth can twist justice to serve their aims, and governmental agencies that use the taxpayers' money to do the same.

We were happy to see in August's edition of Reader's Digest an article which said Senator James L. Buckley of New York has proposed legislation that would require the payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to any individual, organization or government jurisdiction winning litigation both by or against the federal government.

As Buckley points out, the average person or small businessman is at the mercy of the federal government because he does not have the resources to fight it in court. When he does, even if he wins he still loses because he will have enormous legal fees to pay.

It is a shallow victory to win a principle while bankrupting yourself to do so.

There have been numerous cases reported where the federal government demands actions

against both individuals and businesses without proper authority. To challenge these rules and regulations you must fight in court. Costs of a full-blown court case can run into thousands of dollars.

The bureaucrats know most people do not have either the time or the money to invest and therefore will give in even though they are right.

Buckley's bill is called the "Equal Access to Courts Act" S2871. A companion bill is sponsored by Congressman Crane and is called HR4075. The bill has received popular support from Republicans and Democrats in Congress, but to insure passage, Buckley calls for an outpouring of support from the general public.


This bill and its ramifications could some day affect you. If enacted into law you will have an equal opportunity to defend yourself against the government. We encourage you to support this measure to its fullest.

Write to your Congressman, to your Senator and to the President. Also encourage your state assemblyman and senator to propose and enact similar legislation here in New York State.

This legislation will at least give us a chance for equal footing against big government. And why not?

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