

The immorality of a repeat vote

Officials in many school districts on Long Island, where budgets have gone down in defeat in the spring, are now bringing these same budgets back up for a revote for the second and third time.

This is a common practice on Long Island, and in part, is the reason for skyrocketing real estate taxes.

Years ago, it would be considered unthinkable to resubmit a vote once it had been defeated. Those who were charged with preparing the proposition had to make sure everything was in order before they submitted their propositions.

If the voters accepted it, fine, if they rejected it, that was the way the ball bounced.

During the last two decades, municipalities and school boards have been able to ram through controversial issues and budgets by continually resubmitting the same propositions to the voters.

We find this practice undemocratic and morally corrupt.

What is the sense of living and participating in a democracy, if the will of the voters can be flagrantly disregarded.

Both proponents and opponents have ample time to muster their forces in support of the position prior to the balloting. Once the ballots are counted and the results are announced, the will of the people should be followed.

By allowing a practice of re-vote, the will of the people is circumvented and the purpose of balloting is negated.

School boards have used this immoral practice to pad and pass budgets that have doubled and tripled school taxes.

The administrators, primarily concerned with the preparation of budgets, no longer fear having a budget turned down no matter how unjust it may be.

They may suffer a defeat the first or second time out, but count on the

parents of children, who will be inconvenienced by an austerity budget, to rally to the cause and demand a third vote.

In most instances, the opponents of a particular budget give up in disgust and frustration and allow the budget to be passed.

Suffolk Life believes a revote on a budget that has not been significantly altered is morally wrong. It is a flagrant misuse of the democratic system.

In fact, we believe the whole system of school budget voting is a sham, as it now stands. Even if the proposed budget is rejected by the voters, only things like busing and sports are affected.

School officials can go ahead helter skelter paying teachers as much as they want, and offer any and all types of non-essential courses, and make classes as small as they want, under the guise of an austerity budget.

With taxpayers, being soaked for between \$2,000 and \$4,000, in property taxes annually, we would like to see the voter have the right to select the class size for a school district, the ratio of administrators to educators to students and approval or rejection of contracts negotiated by the school board.

We ourselves a number of years ago, found ourselves faced with a revote after having supported the first vote.

At this time, we decided to vote against the budget because the voice of the majority was heard the first time around.

This was a personal decision, one based on our support of the democratic system.

We suggest you consider following our example, for unless elected officials realize that the public is taking measures to counter their abuse of the system, we might as well throw out the entire democratic system and give up what little control we now have over our lives. And why not?

Subsidies and price fixing

Ironically, both state and federal anti-trust laws forbid price fixing and yet, both the state and the federal government engage in it openly.

Our system of economics operates on a system of supply and demand. Prices vary according to the availability of the product or service being sold.

The federal government primarily through the agricultural department causes prices of food stuffs and fibers to be artificially high by subsidizing farmers and various crops.

These subsidies are paid for through our taxes and what money we have left, after taxes, buy less because of artificially high prices.

Subsidies just a few years ago were running over \$5 billion a year. A great portion of this was involved in subsidizing our grain farmers.

Under Secretary Butz, a decision was made to eliminate many of the subsidies that we were paying to producers and dispose of the grain elevators in which the products were stored.

Russia, at the time, had had a serious crop failure and bought up high quantities of our surplus rye, wheat and corn. This caused the price of food stuffs in the U.S. to shoot up dramatically.

Farmers and farm corporations made huge profits, but in the end, it reduced the cost that taxpayers were paying for subsidies down to \$1 billion a year.

During the last two years, there has been a bountiful harvest world-wide. This has resulted in a limited demand for American farm products. Yet, it has not resulted in a decrease in prices paid for foodstuffs by the American consumer.

The Agricultural Department should be asking why, but instead are considering going back into the subsidies and storage business.

We, as consumers and taxpayers, should oppose this action. If the pressure is kept on the source of food products, eventually prices can be forced to return to a realistic level.

If the government goes back into the business of limiting production, buying up excess supply, food prices will never come down.

Why not pick up a pen and let your Congressmen and Senators know that you know what is going on and you are opposed to it.

A few minutes of your time and a 13 cent stamp can in the long run pay you more dividends than all the coupons you could ever clip out of food ads: And why not?

VIEWPOINT

'Here in Great South Bay, we are rejected'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I hope this letter finds you in fair harbor. I hear of your publication more and more frequently, congratulations. From the time I first took residence east of the rocky shoals of the tower of Babel, I had wished your publication would expand its influence. Fly your colors high upon the mast, hold ye course, and gracious harbors await you. The contribution a good captain makes is not always clear, but I commend your ability and if I have misunderstood your heading, I apologize, while sails are rising.

Your editorials, and my personal opinion, have shared sentiments so often, I have taken your responsibility for granted, but in spite of this there is a problem at hand. Being a bayman, I relocated (over four years ago), hoping that somehow I could contribute to the co-existence of urban life and people of the bay. Following your articles about the commercial fishing boats and dock spaces, I pursued the ill winds to their origin. It was hard to see why no one seemed to recognize the men who created this water wonderland, the baymen.

When this land was virgin, it was not the sport fisherman who dared caress its beauty, it was the farmer of the sea. These men plotted its currents, cultivated its ports, and harvested the fruits of its waters for all to enjoy. The spirit in their beings, the muscle in their backs, the sweat of their brows, the courage in their hearts, these things were here before any tax. Men and women together ventured for the sake of providing to others, and now it seems all care not for these castaways from the past. Unoblecting and offering even assistance when flagged, the baymen must now be oppressed, unconsidered, eliminated. Other ports and harbors seem to consider its families of the water, but here in Great South Bay, we are rejected. I who learned of life, understood love, and found a meaning, feel unwanted.

Until now, our presence at town docks, has been an aid to its prosperity, through ours and our buyers fees. I wonder how many times one of us have foiled a theft. Or how much assistance we give to others? Not to mention the attraction we create, they don't

see many baymen or bay boats in Vermont or Kansas, and these people contribute to business. Now, I was told by a town official that the trouble has stemmed from your paper. When we move into a dock space, just a simple request is all that is needed for us to vacate. The person leaving the dock for the day need only drape his springline from pole to pole, to notify the entire world that it is theirs.

Pleasure boaters are always casting wakes at the most inopportune times. Their food wrappers, bottles and cans float by. Their discarded disposable diapers are sighted on the surface and dug from the depths. Their navigational inabilities sometimes make the most courageous baymen contemplate abandoning ship.

The people who pollute our bay, are more in number. Votes are the name of the game I'm told, so good-by baymen. I ask that the town, the state and the news media, along with the people make an effort to allow us to live in harmony. The first beach I ever stood on was here, I earn my living here. I give chowders for bait. I supply a chum line with pleasure. Am I and my kind really not wanted.

I also acted on the fact that you stated there was no waiting list in the Sandspit, they told me three to four years. But there are many empty spaces. Is this the handwriting on the wall?

I am also writing a letter to Mr. Randolph in reference to the storm that brews. I am going to ask that at least let regulations be enforced entirely. Many of these spaces are vacant all year round, I also know the list is not accurate. Every bayman meets the qualifications for a berth, but favoritism is employed. Also I am going to ask why things cannot be established so that this financial burden for the taxpayer at least be used to its maximum by the taxpayer. The officials run the fisherman out leaving berths vacant. I feel the baymen should have the option at that point to use the empty dock spaces.

And why not?
May the wind fill ya sheets,
The Phantom Pirate
Mastic

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SUFFOLK LIFE

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Are registered guns a deterrent ?

Every time there is a publicized killing with a gun, there is a great outcry by the anti-gun lobby to register all firearms.

After the siege by the Son of Sam, who wantonly killed with a .44-caliber pistol, letters to the editor columns of our major dailies were filled with these thoughts.

The citizens of the U.S. have a right guaranteed to them under the constitution to own and possess guns. We have a right to protect ourselves and our property.

We know from history once guns are registered, it is simple and easy for the government to confiscate all firearms, when it deems fit. We witnessed this under Hitler, when all privately owned firearms were confiscated by the Nazis and the people were left defenseless against the atrocities that Hitler committed against them.

The Son of Sam killings are a perfect example of why registration of guns does not work.

New York State is one of the most stringent states in the nation in their laws covering hand guns.

In New York City, the Sullivan law makes it almost impossible for a private citizen to own a hand gun legally for any reason. These crimes committed by the Son of Sam were committed with an illegal hand gun.

The hand gun had been obtained in one of the southern states, where restrictions are not so stringent. The gun was not purchased anyway, it was acquired from a friend who reportedly had obtained it by circumventing the registration laws prevailing there.

Proponents of gun registration might try to use this to support a national hand gun registration law that would be uniform through all 50

states.

We would like to remind them there is already such a law covering automatic weapons. It is a strong law and strictly enforced, yet in the back seat of the Son of Sam's car was an automatic rifle he reportedly planned to use out here in the Hamptons.

The Son of Sam is not a professional criminal nor would you think he would have access to weaponry like organized crime figures. Yet, he obtained a highly regulated, illegal weapon, which to us indicated any regulations for controlling the possession of guns could be breached by someone predetermined to use a weapon for wanton purposes.

A more realistic approach to the possession of weapons would be to enact laws that severely penalize anyone who uses a weapon illegally.

If a person used a weapon in the commission of a crime, our law should be structured to punish them with a mandatory life sentence. If we did, fewer weapons would be used in the commission of these crimes.

This has been proven by the statistics compiled on burglaries. When a person burglarizes a home and is not armed, the crime is considered less severe.

Even though he may never use it, a burglar who carries a weapon and is caught becomes an armed robber. Burglars know this, and many do not arm themselves when they pursue these crimes.

Registering guns would create a false sense of security in the public's mind.

It will not stop the use of weapons in committing crimes. It will only force law abiding citizens to give up another freedom, guaranteed to us by the constitution of the U.S. And why not?

When they put a meter on the sun

We were at a party a few weeks ago and energy was the topic of conversation.

There was considerable talk about alternate energy sources and questions as to why America, with all her technology, was not making faster breakthroughs in converting free renewable sources of energy into electricity.

An astute elder politician answered the questions with a simple statement.

"When they put a meter on the sun, solar energy will, overnight, become practical," he said. As sarcastic as this remark may have been, it was one of the most logical statements we have heard on the energy problem. And why not?

Dear Sir:

The dinosaur, the duck-billed platypus, the dodo bird. They would all have been proud of one of their own defying the odds of extinction, strutting its vacuous stuff, chattering its mindless trivia, and finally proudly displaying its ultimate defensive weapon - an obscene gesture directed at its supposed enemies. I refer to the operations of a local school board, that archaic throwback to the days of normal schools when a district consisted exclusively of friends and neighbors. Today, by its own unwitting testimony, it is an anachronism, a polarized collection of special interests, nay-sayers, hangers-on, and presumptuous political hacks. The present set up, at least in the Connetquot School District, of an ineffectual board manipulated by a self-seeking administration, allows for gnashing of teeth over an inflated tax structure, and specious, uninformed assaults on the process of learning, but for little else. It's time to reshuffle our priorities and to decide which is of greater importance, a stultified tradition for which children pay the price, or progress toward the twenty-first century and commensurate educational institutions.

Admittedly, apologetically, my experience with school boards is minimal and these observations may apply only to the situation in Connetquot. I think, however, that the conditions may be more typical than exceptional.

I attended my first school board meeting on the evening of August 16. Beyond that, I know them chiefly by the work they do and how it has affected the community, paltry, and presumptuous grounds on which to base criticism. Yet, ignorance, presumption, and lack of qualifications are in no way a bar to school board membership and logically, then, should be no bar to an indictment of that membership. It is incidental that I couldn't agree with much of what the Connetquot School Board did -- or didn't do -- on August 16. What is important is the question of whether it or any other such board is capable of conducting a complex business of education for more than ten thousand students. I think not.

Precisely, what happened at this meeting? First, and somehow significantly, it wasn't a regularly scheduled meeting, which meetings, according to the published calendar, are to be held the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. In part, at least, the purpose was to consider the protests of the electorate with regard to a second re-vote on the district budget. Yet, there was little effort made to make the public aware of this extraordinary meeting. One wonders why not.

This is not to suggest, though, that the meeting was now well-attended. Perhaps four hundred people or more showed up to witness the spectacle and that it was a spectacle: The platypus lives!

The sports lobby was at full strength, ostentatiously flexing its well-organized biceps, with the representatives of the Friends of Varsity Football holding the floor on three of four separate occasions imploring, cajoling, negotiating, for a football program funded within an austerity budget. Somehow, they had gotten wind of the meeting, though few people in my area -- primarily consisting of elementary pupils -- knew of it. Maybe we weren't invited?

There were a number of other speakers too. One woman stood up to explain she was a widow with ten kids and couldn't afford the difference between an austerity and a fully constituted budget. Another woman presented petitions with thousands of signatures endorsing a third budget vote. Then a man suggested two budget votes were more than enough and that the people had spoken. A woman countered that she had four kids in school and, without school buses, would be ferrying them back and forth all day. A woman asked why people should be expected to swallow the entire budget package. A man stated civic and PTO groups had been adamant against the "shopping list" approach which permitted people to vote for items they wanted and reject those they didn't. And on and on and on. These were the principal points of view expressed but they weren't simply presented. They were restated and recapitulated, reiterated with addenda and qualification, twisted with shades of meaning, interpreted on personal

and objective bases. One man even succeeded in using the forum as a soap box to promulgate a curious collection of outdated and deceptive statistics, and was roundly applauded. Another offered a very practical solution -- polling the public on whether to have another budget vote; his proposal was ignored without comment by the board.

So, you may say, what's the problem? This is democracy in action, the school board town meeting, the American way!

Bull! Nothing as important as public education should be dependent on the selfish whims, the inflated rhetoric, or the pompous posturing of a citizenry that is largely oblivious to the mechanism of a school system. It's no wonder so many districts turn out such a sorry product.

But the problem is certainly not confined to the audience, people who at least are often sincere, if occasionally misguided. The Connetquot Board itself represents the real problem without a single member who was able to speak articulately at the same time as he reasoned intelligently. The others ranged from the protector of the purse who blindly disputed almost every point raised, to one who, from the beginning, flouted her inflexibility on the budget question, to a new member, training on the job, who never raised an issue, never clarified a question, and whose only function seemed to be to puff cigarettes and vote nay. The whole debacle was ostensibly led by an upward mobile political climber who let slip his true career motives when, a year after becoming the school board president, he sought a full-time political appointment as Town of Islip Clerk. In any event, aside from protocol, his purpose in attending was moot since the District Superintendent dominated the operations of the meetings and the board president. I was ten rows back, but if you looked carefully, you could just about see the puppeteer's strings.

The whole thing was an experience, though, which I may or may not have the courage to repeat. After all, I'm not on a first name basis as so many of the activists are, chummy to the extent of preparing their proposals in advance with the board. But I, too, have a personal stake. After seven years of paying taxes in the district, my first child will be attending kindergarten in the fall, without a school bus to transport her. But that's all right. We can work that out. What's more frustrating is the fear that her education will be controlled by this group of six.

Is there an alternative? I feel there is, almost any reasonable alternative being preferable to what we endure at present: complete control and administration of all schools in New York by the State Board of Regents or a comparable professional body. Or, at least, establishing training programs and minimum qualifications for school board candidates by which they may be evaluated. Maybe then the annual silliness that attends the school budget question, with its attendant invective against teachers' salaries and taxes, can be eliminated. Maybe then decisions regarding our children will be made by those whose abilities, expertise, and education are a shade above our children's. Maybe then the normal situation in which one hundred per cent of the taxpayers subsidize the ten per cent of students involved in interscholastic sports can be eliminated. Maybe then we won't need to have the bloody body of a six-year-old lying on Sunrise Highway, or Montauk Highway, or Ocean Avenue, to sacrifice to the god of expedience and economy.

Any system whose leaders gain or perpetuate control by the consent of ten per cent of those they govern is on its face invalid and absurd. It is useless to attempt to change the ninety per cent who failed to vote on the Connetquot budgets; half don't care and the other half either never hear about budget votes or can't get to the polls for one reason or other. Better to change or abolish the system that inspires such apathy and such distorted perspectives as no new books, no building maintenance, and no transportation beyond the barest essentials.

But come fall, Connetquot will yield a varsity football team for the benefit of .0048 per cent of the students.

Yeah, team!
Sincerely,
E.T.L.
Ronkenkoma

VOL.17 NO.53

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North Fork South Fork Riverhead Hampton West	Patchogue Medford/Holbrook Sayville Ronkenkoma	Coram/Middle Island Selden/Centereach 3 Village/Port Jefferson Rocky Point
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SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS PAGE 3

The ocean returns

Being an editor is often a frustrating position.

Sometimes it takes years of writing on the same subject to finally convince people or to motivate people into action.

One of our longest running campaigns was for the establishment of a 200-mile limit. We appreciated and were gratified when this was finally enacted and became law last March.

We may have played only a small part in this national issue, but felt that our efforts had been worthwhile.

We didn't expect to see any great changes for a period of years in the fisheries off our Island. For sure, not this year.

To our pleasant surprise, the changes are already being felt. We have been sport fishing off Long Island waters for over 25 years.

We personally witnessed the devastation and almost ruination of this important fishery being overharvested.

One of the last species of fish to go were the whiting and ling. Up to three years ago, you could drop a line to the bottom, and within a short period of time catch all the whiting and ling you needed for live bait.

In fact, less than a decade ago, those of us who were into shark fishing never took out prepared chum. Bottom fish were so plentiful that you could keep chumming fish simply by having one man bottom fishing during the day.

Three years ago, during the whole season, we never caught a single bottom fish. These bottom fish are one of the primary food sources for

the larger sport fish.

During the past month, we have witnessed a stunning comeback in whiting, ling and squid, which all inhabit the bottom of the ocean.

With the return of these bait fish, there have come the tuna, the marlin, swordfish and sharks.

We can only attribute the rapid comeback of these fish to the pressure that was taken off them when the foreign fishing fleets were banned from vacuuming the bottom clean.

As the various species of fish make their comeback, the supply of fresh fish should become more abundant, and prices should return to reasonable levels, once again, allowing Americans to make fish a stable part of their diet.

We all should be aware, though, that our government is coming under increasing pressure from foreign countries to relax their standards and make deals to allow our so-called friends as well as enemies to harvest off our shores.

One such deal allowed the Japanese long liners to fish the Caribbean and the pressure of this fishing has threatened the delicate balance of the big giants of the sea.

We have learned a hard lesson by allowing in the past the overharvesting of fish off our shores. Fish will reproduce and replenish themselves if enough breeding stock is left.

Politicians, particularly those in the State Department, must be made to understand how fragile this balance is and not be allowed to give away wantonly our fishing rights for political expediency. And why not?

'I tried to do what was right'

Dear Sir:

When Iverson Cycle laid me (and 500 others) off on May 17, 1977, I applied for unemployment. I receive \$77.00 a week (which no way pays my expenses). I am divorced, so I have all the upkeep of the house I worked for - for over 20 years. I was told by the unemployment office in Patchogue and the Suffolk County Labor Board in Hauppauge that I have to go from factory to factory till I find a job. I was doing that, I have a whole list of places I went to on my own, but I thought they would also help - that's some joke.

Finally, I found a job, but only held it for 3 1/2 days, because I have a herniated disc (which I informed my "new" employer about) and the excessive bending involved in this job caused me too much pain. I can't get disability or compensation and in order to get unemployment, I have to be able to work, my doctor says I can work, but no bending - where can I find a job like that? I WANT TO WORK.

As a result of my being obedient and finding a job, I wound up hurting real bad - losing (being penalized) \$10.00 by unemployment besides the wear and tear on my car and the gas wasted plus the unemployment giving me a bad time - why? I tried to do what was right. Why should I be the loser. It's not FAIR. What is the answer for honest people? I want a job where I will be treated like a person, not a machine.

Agnes Sporch
Holtsville

'We could properly be termed the 'Union State'

Dear Editor:

Your Editorial about New York ranking as the 48th state in growth of personal income hit the nail on the head. If our public officials, including our union minded governor, were deliberately trying to destroy our image as the Empire State, they couldn't do a better job and by the end of the term of the present administration, we'll probably be a bit lower on the economic scale.

The state is in anything but a sound financial condition yet the Governor approved retirement after but twenty years of service for the Parkway Police. This would be acceptable in case of disability and with the proviso the retiree does not take another job, but of course, there is no such restriction as the unions wouldn't approve.

The President is greatly concerned about Human Rights, but as far as New York State is concerned, they are conveniently overlooked when public employees who do not wish to join a union are compelled to pay the same dues as if they did belong. The state is hard pressed for money but would never think of taxing the unions whose members are compelled to belong as a condition of their employment. Thanks to the present Governor and his predecessor, we could probably be termed 'The Union State' and as such, we are rapidly becoming a far less desirable place to live, work or conduct a business. (L-17E)

Very truly yours,
A Disgusted Citizen
Westhampton

'I thank you'

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the staff and each of the members of the Suffolk Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I would like to thank you for your excellent coverage and presentation of the Sorace Family Story. Your sensitivity and insight has made a valuable contribution not only to the Soraces and the other members of MDA in Suffolk who are in need of recognition and support, but also to the general Suffolk Life reader. I am sure that after reading your series on the Soraces, people will be more in touch with the needs of individuals who are victims of muscular dystrophy and perhaps will have taken the opportunity to re-evaluate their own lives, abilities and goals.

At a time when MDA offices and all individuals affiliated with MDA throughout the nation are making final preparations for the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, you have alerted a portion of the population to the need for continued research and constant medical care for muscular dystrophy patients. In addition to offering your readers a better understanding of MD, Suffolk Life has also supported the Telethon and related local activities - which are a means of contributing toward the fight against this dread disease.

It is with warmth and appreciation, that I thank you. (L-8E)

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Moskowitz
Patient Service Coordinator

'I found your editorial on gasoline prices amusing'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I found your editorial on gasoline prices on Long Island vs Upstate New York were amusing. Since I have many relatives upstate, I travelled a great deal throughout the state. I defy you to name any places where a motorist can get gas at .48 - .53 cents per gallon (that would be the .10 cents less you talk about in your article) in upstate in New York.

Although it is expensive to live on Long Island, I don't think that it is any relatively more expensive to live on Long Island than it is in upstate New York. While our taxes are higher here, our salaries are also much higher. I'm willing to bet that the cost for local government services in terms of per cent of salary is not any higher in Brookhaven than it is in a similar geographic area upstate. (L-16E)

Respectfully yours,
Jack Guarneri
Blue Point

Ed. Note: Watch for an upcoming article to be published in the N.Y Times in reference to the differential in the cost of fuel throughout the entire northeast. You'll find metro N.Y., including L.I., is the highest in the lower 48.

'Wishing her

a lot of sleepless nights'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your recent story about Maggot, the poor dog left behind after a happy summer, makes you a genius, in my eyes. Not only is the story gripping and heart-wrenching, but it conveys, to those too stupid or stubborn to understand otherwise, what really happens in many abandonment cases.

Your publication is so wonderful in so many ways already, but this full page story devoted to the comings and goings of the forsaken elevates it to new heights.

I have a friend on West Avenue who says she hopes the woman who recently stopped her red car and let out a beautiful German Shepherd, and then took off for good, will herself be dumped in retribution. She's wishing her a lot of sleepless nights, at the very least.

Thank you, Mr. Willmott. (L-7E)

Sincerely,
Josephine Flick
Patchogue

For whose welfare?

County Executive John Klein's campaign to rally the suburbans for welfare reform seems to us just another instance where the only welfare our exulted county executive is looking after, is his own.

Frankly, Klein, who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, doesn't care a bit for the poor middle class taxpayer who has to struggle to pay the property taxes that he and others like him are levying.

Klein simply sees it as a chance to further his own political ambitions to the national stage, as either a congressman or a senator.

Although we favor the federal takeover of welfare costs, and a standardization of benefits throughout the country, we think Klein has a lot of nerve financing what amounts to a personal political rally with accompanying newspaper ads on our hard earned tax dollars.

Fortunately, most Suffolk County residents saw through the sham. They could plainly see that Klein's efforts were largely for his own good and not for ours. That's the reason only a couple of hundred people

showed up, and not the thousands that an issue like welfare might normally have drawn.

Smarten up, Mr. County Executive. When you start taking Suffolk residents' interests to heart, they'll respond. But, there are already too many election rallies, for them to waste time on a personal one for you. And why not?

SUFFOLK LIFE
NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 17 NO. 54

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North Fork South Fork Riverhead Hampton West	Mastic/Moriches Patchogue Medford/Holbrook Sayville Ronkonkoma	Coram/Middle Island Selden/Centereach 3 Village/Port Jefferson Rocky Point
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Continued on page 11, 1977

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Remember, he wouldn't lie to you

That too-bright smile, the sincere blue eyes looked out at you with a simple message, "Jimmy Carter wouldn't lie to you".

Less than one year after the voters were sold his television message, Jimmy Carter is in the midst of perpetuating the biggest lie since Adolph Hitler.

Carter's big lie is his energy program.

Stripped down of emotionalism, it is nothing more than an outright grab for taxes. If the American people buy this whole package, the federal government will increase their revenues in excess of 20 per cent.

The program will bring into the federal government over one hundred billion dollars in new revenues. That amount is more than all the profits earned by all the corporations in the U.S. combined after taxes.

It will kill the last vestige of capitalism-free enterprise in America. It will transform our society into more of a socialistic state than the Kremlin has been able to achieve in Russia.

The tricks Jimmy Carter is playing with the energy program are worse than any Dick Nixon ever dreamed up in his heyday.

Ironically, the Carter tax increase will do nothing to alleviate our energy problems. We, the public and the private sector of this country, are locked into our dependency on energy.

There is no mass transportation nation-wide so we must depend upon

automobiles to get around. There are no practical alternatives presently available to avoid using electricity and oil to generate power and provide heat.

Sure we can cut down on an extra trip we take with our cars. We can turn down our thermostats from a comfortable 70 degrees to an uncomfortable 60 and maybe save 12 per cent in oil consumption.

We can turn off a few wasted light bulbs, dispose of a few luxury appliances and when all is said and done, we might cut back 10 per cent of our electric usage.

For all practical purposes, there is little we can do to meaningfully conserve large portions of fuel or energy.

It is a fact, we have enough coal in the ground to supply trillions of barrels of oil that are being kept in the ground because of federal regulations.

There are also untapped resources of natural gas that will not be developed, also because of federal bungling.

Carter is using the energy issue to play on the public's paranoia. If successful, he will rip off more taxes in one handful than ever have been attempted by any elected officials in the world. His energy program is phony as a three dollar bill and is equally dishonest.

Most of us wondered what we would get from that smooth talking, smiling Southern. We now know -- "The greatest shafting the American

people have ever had."

The only thing guaranteed by Carter's energy program is the ruination of our already too fragile economy. Great masses of people will be thrown out of legitimate work in the private sector.

It will bring this country to a screeching halt and make come true Kruschchjev's promise that we will be buried.

Carter must be stopped in this great grab for power, cold in his tracks.

Whether you are a Democrat, a Republican or an Independent voter, we beseech you to contact your Congressmen and Senators now.

Plead with them and demand that they oppose this program. The implications are so far reaching it is mind boggling even to think about. And why not.

Off the books

As reported in last Sunday's Suffolk Life, the state Department of Labor has tripled their investigatives force to crack down on people who are illegally working off the books while collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

These illegal workers are ripping off those who are working and paying their way. They are taking advantage of a social program that was meant to aid people over hard times while unemployed.

Today's unemployment insurance benefits are equivalent to a salary of between \$175 and \$200 per week, as the benefits contain no deductions and are tax free.

Living on unemployment benefits while at the same time working off the books has become a way of life for the greedy of our society. This greed may well lead to the downfall of the entire system and this invaluable protection

that the American workers enjoy.

These illegal benefits cost consumers right here in Suffolk County millions of dollars a year in high prices they must pay for everything from food to housing.

We hope the Department of Labor is successful in their various investigations. We encourage employers to cooperate with them and citizens to tip them off. These people, who are receiving these benefits while working, are taking legitimate jobs out of the market, robbing those who are working by making them earn less while having to pay more so that these workers can live off the sweat of their brow.

Unemployment insurance is an important and invaluable benefit. Its abuse is an unpardonable travesty that none of us should tolerate. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'He reassured our sometimes faltering faith in human nature'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On my recent trip to the United States, I was visiting a dear old friend who has just moved to Suffolk County from Chicago. The very first evening, when we were about to

leave a shopping plaza, alas, our little foreign made car went dead. Quite a number of folks gathered around us expressing their sympathy. One fellow was very anxious to have a close look at a rotary engine about which he had heard and which he now could see at its 'best' performance.

Almost all of the onlookers remarked that everything related to things mechanical is closed in Riverhead by this time of the day. Only one kind gentleman provided us with a glimmer of hope by pointing out a nearby garage which he knew to still be open. My son immediately set out in that direction; one by one the crowd diminished leaving the two of us - the old friend and me - with the dead engine and the fear that should a mechanic appear he will declare solemnly 'I don't know much about rotary engines' - as I have heard so often.

Envisioning the worst, I failed to notice how a friendly looking young man kept busying himself under the hood, mumbling to himself that some time ago he had studied the workings of that particular machine. Although I have no mechanical ability whatsoever, I could sense that this man was not just another curiosity seeker, but knew what he was after. Hoping against all hope, I asked him whether he was a mechanic. His cool reply was: 'No, I am a cop.' And unperturbed he continued checking out the dead 'monster', at the same time 'comforting' me with remarks that not much is open in Riverhead after 6 o'clock.

After a while my son came back with the encouraging news that he found a mechanic who would come in about half an hour. The friendly cop nevertheless, continued with what he had started, casually remarking to his pretty young wife, who by now was sharing her attention between her husband and two little ones in their car: 'Honey, do you remember me ever failing at a job?' And fail he did not! To our great relief and joy he got our car started, it served us well on the rest of our trip and to this day.

I don't think I was able to express properly my gratitude that evening. My son had the presence of mind to drive past

the garage to thank the mechanic for any help he would have given. I didn't even ask for the name of our benefactor and I hope that in reading this he will easily recognize himself and accept the sincere thanks of a grateful Canadian.

To the residents of Suffolk County, I can only say that they are fortunate to have such a humane person on their protective services as a deputy sheriff, who did reassure our sometimes faltering faith in human nature. L-4
Enriched Canadian Visitors.

'We applaud you'

Dear Dave:

Hats off to you on your editorial "His Name Was Maggot." It has been told many times, the story of the cruelty which is abandonment of animals, but never more dramatically than in your excellent piece. It is in a class with Albert Payson Terhune's "The Christmas Puppy." Thank you for your concern for the abandoned and homeless.

In shelter work we see too much of the cruelty which results from the uncontrolled birth of dogs and cats. It is for this reason that at Kent Shelter we spay or neuter all of our adoptive animals at our expense and have also established the Scully Spay and Neuter Clinic, where we perform this surgery at cost for people whose pets were not adopted from us. Since its inception in September, 1973, the Scully clinic at Kent has spayed or neutered 14,000 animals.

You have always shown great concern for the needs of animals, and we applaud you. L-9E
Very sincerely yours,
Gretchen Scanlan
Director

VOL. 17 NO. 55

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Wednesday, September 14, 1977 SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS PAGE 3

100 per cent increase for Ma Bell

An administrative judge of the Public Service Commission recommended Ma Bell be allowed to increase their rates on pay phones 100 per cent along with an overall rate increase of \$245,000,000.

The administrative judge's decision runs counter to the decision reached by the hearing officers and is only one step away from becoming fact, with the final decision that will be made by the members of the Public Service Commission.

Their ruling will be announced later this year and it is expected will coincide with the judges unless there is a loud and meaningful uproar from business and the public.

Ma Bell, last year, increased her profits substantially as she has year after year.

This has been accomplished by the Public Service Commission allowing her to unmercifully raise phone rates without regard to the ability of the consumers or the business community to pay.

Ironically, she has been able to gain enormous rate increases while at the same time cutting back on the cost of one of her major overheads, labor.

The phone company has eliminated a substantial amount of employees by attrition.

These positions have not had to be filled as the phone company has successfully automated a great portion of their equipment and service. This has been due to advances in technology in the communications field.

The cost of operating a phone in New York State as well as message units paid for use of this service is one of the highest in the nation.

This high cost of phone service has played its part in forcing companies to abandon New York State in favor of locations where the state government has had the courage and the ability to resist the influence of its monopolistic utilities.

Rates charged by utilities are supposedly regulated by the PSC. Its members, unfortunately, are ap-

pointed officers. These appointments are made by the governor.

The Governor, in effect, is the only person the Public Service Commissioners' and their bureaucratic maze of hacks are responsible to.

We have not had a Governor in the last two decades who has seemed to give a damn about the utility costs paid by the consumer. As a result, the utilities have had a field day whether they be the telephone company, LILCO or Con Ed.

The Public Service Commissioners should be responsible to all the people and not just the Governor who must spend millions of dollars a year on his campaign to get into office and stay there.

Why shouldn't you have the right to choose people who regulate the rates set by utilities. There is no logical reason why you should be denied this choice.

You should demand your Legislators enact laws making the Public Service Commissioners elected positions.

We hope you realize it is you who will be paying for this \$245,000,000 grab by Ma Bell.

It only can be stopped if you communicate your feeling to the Public Service Commission and the Governor of this State.

Address your correspondence to the following addresses.

Hugh L. Carey
Executive Chamber
Albany, N.Y. 12224

Alfred E. Kahn, Chairman
Public Service Commission
Agency 3, Empire St. Plaza,
Albany, N.Y. 12223

You probably will not get back more than a form letter but your position will be noted. Your individual contribution may well be the one that lets the Public Service Commission and the Governor know. "Hey, those people out there know what is going on, we can't get away with it this time." And why not?

Is Block Island in the northeast region?

The Northeast region is in deep trouble with its economy because of federal funds that are not being allocated to this area, or so we have been told.

Looking around Long Island you see few federal projects underway and it is reasonable to assume this allegation is true.

Recently we went to Block Island. From Salt Pond to Old Harbor there were billboards proclaiming the projects the federal government was involved in to aid this beautiful, historic island.

Block Island has a year-round population of 350. Yet federal money has been poured in to build a municipal sewer plant, rebuild the town dock and from what one of the natives told us to build a wind-

powered, electric generating plant to help make the islanders self-sufficient and not dependent on oil for its energy.

Isn't it strange how one little island sitting out in the middle of the Atlantic can attract millions of dollars in federal funds, when it doesn't even have a Congressman living on the island?

In the circulation area of Suffolk Life, we have two Congressmen, we have almost one million people all trying to survive and yet the federal government totally ignores us.

What does Block Island have that Long Island doesn't? Maybe it has a representative who cares and who can bring forcefully to the federal government the needs of her people. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'I have been trying desperately to come off welfare'

Dear Sir:

Don't know if you would want to put this in your paper, but I do believe the taxpayers in Suffolk Co. would be interested.

Happened to tune in the television this past Sunday, to the 60 minutes program, all about the Welfare rip off. Boy is it ever a rip off. I, for one, have been trying desperately for years to come off Welfare, but up till now, have no other alternative, but to stay on. Courts have done nothing, that is Family Court in Hauppauge, also Family Court in Jamaica, Long Island. I was told there were bench warrants out for my husband's arrest, and nothing has been done. Called dist. atty's office in Riverhead and was told they couldn't do anything for me, as there was no criminal charge attached to the case. Now, as a last resort I wrote to Congressman Otis G. Pike, to see if he can do anything for me. So you see, I have been trying for years, to find my husband, and come off Welfare. I can't un-

derstand why Welfare doesn't go after these husbands that do not support their wives. I was told if there were small children in the home, then they would work on it. I just happened to have a 30 yr. old married daughter living in Florida, and won't burden her with my problems. She is married now and has her own life to live with her husband and children. I own my own home and there is a lien on it for about \$17,000. I couldn't sell it unless I pay back Welfare all the monies they have given me. What about all these people that have no assets? They don't have to give back any money. I could go on and on, but I did give you the highlights. Maybe thru this article that I wrote, something can be done for me and stop this Welfare rip off. Please don't use my name if you should put it in your newspaper. Thank you Mr. Willmott for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely,
On, but not liking it.

'Nuclear is one of the options'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I enjoy reading your paper and appreciate your concern about the future of the East End of Long Island. However, I do feel that it is necessary to present all the facts in a given situation.

Here is an opportunity for you to demonstrate that your paper is not unfairly biased against nuclear power.

A recent editorial (August 28, 1977) mentioned a UPI story to the effect that "a nuclear reactor at the university of Florida goes screwy everytime somebody flushes the toilet".....Well, I contacted Dr. Nilus J. Diaz, assistant professor of nuclear science and he provided the following explanation.

It seems that for a class experiment once or twice a year, the city water supply is utilized for additional cooling. During this demonstration, a maximum quantity of water is needed. If the city water pressure is not high enough, the experiment cannot take place, and the reactor will be shut down automatically. Thus, the toilet flush comment. Normal cooling water for the reactor comes from an independent, non-city, source.

It is the opinion of Dr. Diaz that this story was circulated to discredit the university reactor, and it should be obvious that to expand it to discredit all nuclear power stations is irresponsible, to say the least.

I would like to add that nuclear power plants are designed to provide the necessary cooling, independent of city supplies with sufficient redundancy to cover most any foreseeable circumstance.

The United States needs every available option to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Nuclear, while not 100 per cent problem free (like everything else) is one of the options. L-16H.

Sincerely,
Richard Brewster
Nassau Point

ED. NOTE: Doesn't it strike you as being a little lax to allow any kind of nuclear reactor to be effected by an outside water source and doubly affected by the mere flushing of 6 gallons of water. In my eyes nuclear is a potential 100 per cent problem not 100 per cent problem free.

'A decision was made-stand by it'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your editorial, "The immorality of a repeat vote" was excellent. You have very clearly explained how the democratic process is distorted by submitting a defeated school budget for a revote. I, for one, have never heard of the minority opinion resulting in the resubmission for vote of a school budget that was passed the first time.

The danger of this practice is not limited to enabling a defeated school budget to be

passed. The greater danger about which we all should be concerned is that the schools, which are preparing our children to live in our democracy, are presenting a false model of the democratic system. Our children should be taught that in a true democracy, the will of the people should not be manipulated, but should be honored. L-13H
Sincerely yours,
Abe Almany
Bayport

SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 17 NO. 56

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Dissolving the county legislature

It is refreshing to occasionally see a candidate for public office come up with a practical idea, particularly one that has tremendous merit.

Dennis Hurley, a Riverhead attorney, who is candidate for the First Legislative District is running on a promise if elected he will attempt to dissolve the County Legislature.

Hurley believes the county legislature is nothing more than a part-time position. That legislators for the most part, spin their wheels, accomplish little, but do build little empires for themselves.

He favors dissolving the county legislature as it is now structured and returning to the old Board of Supervisors.

To meet the Supreme Court's decree, he advocates the supervisors voting on a weighted basis.

For over a century, all county business was taken care of by the Board of Supervisors. In the mid 1960's, a law suit was brought by Assemblyman Bill Bianchi and Frederic Block challenging the board's constitutionality.

Their argument was that each town having a single vote gave a disproportionate amount of representation to smaller towns at the sacrifice of larger towns. They were right and the Supreme Court affirmed their belief.

The county board was ordered to either reapportion itself according to population district or adopt a weighted vote system.

The old power structure of the Republican party, which considered itself invincible, saw great avenues for new patronage in a separate legislature and developed the present county legislature.

From 10 part-time positions without staffs, they built an 18 member county legislature complete with staffs that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

The work accomplished by the county legislature is far poorer than what was accomplished by the old board of supervisors.

Today, most residents of Suffolk County have less input into their county government than they had when their town supervisor

represented them on county matters.

There is limited coordination and cooperation between town and county government. Projects are frequently duplicated, wasting untold millions of tax dollars.

The county is also constantly walking all over the towns. They're usurping their powers and sticking their nose into business that is none of their concern.

The county legislature has wandered, since its inception without purpose or direction. It has been a waste land of ideas and productivity.

Half the county legislators don't even know what job they hold, the other half are too inert to do the job they know they should.

The quality of town supervisors had always and will always surpass the quality of the candidates who run for county legislator.

Supervisors generally are managers and administrators. They come before the voters with concrete ideas and proven track records. Candidates for the county legislature are often wide-eyed dreamers who have been put up to run because nobody else wants the position.

Why should they? Who wants to waste valuable years of their lives? Successful legislators have had a track record of being a rubber stamp for small groups of influential people.

They have failed to come up with imaginative programs or ideas to either help Suffolk County or to control the waste land that county government has been allowed to become.

Hurley's proposal should be given serious consideration. It should be a question that is answered by every legislative candidate.

Those, who are presently serving as county legislators, know first hand how little the taxpayer gets back for the money we spend.

How they answer and whether they support a return to the old board of supervisors with a system of weighted votes will give you a clear cut indication of how honest these candidates are and whether they are worthy of your support in November. And why not?

Firewood for free but never in Suffolk

In last Wednesday's Suffolk Life, we carried a news story announcing the state's intention to allow residents to go onto land controlled by the State Department Environmental Conservation, and cut wood for a minimal charge.

In the past, the state has allowed residents, by permit, to go onto these lands and cut out fallen and dead wood. The State recognizes this dead wood causes fire hazards and serves almost no purpose in being left there. Also, allowing residents to cut wood is another form of recreation. At the same time, it helps those, who want to limit their consumption of fuel oil by heating at least part of their homes through fireplaces and heatolators.

The county, by contrast, which has literally thousands of acres of wood land, much of it bearing hundreds of thousands of cords of dead wood refuses to allow its residents permission to harvest it.

Some areas that had been hit with forest fires have thousands of trees that could be cut and yet are left to rot.

The County in all their wisdom places on the trees surrounding these lands signs that proclaim, "no hunting, no fishing, and no wood cutting."

County Legislator Joyce Burland, head of the parks committee, has persistently defended this bureaucratic regulation. She seems to find great joy in proclaiming the bureaucratic line "residents of Suffolk County are too dumb to know the difference between a live tree and a dead one, and therefore, mistakenly might cut down a living tree in their zest to heat their homes."

We have spent most of our lives here on Eastern Long Island. Whatever free time we have had has been spent in the woods and on the beaches.

We have met thousands of people in these experiences and we have found few who didn't know the difference between a live tree and a dead tree.

We have also found most Suffolk residents do appreciate our parklands and woodlands and do not abuse them.

Sure there is an element that will cut down trees for the hell of it, but there are also those who would turn over picnic benches and throw beer cans in the streams. They are also the ones who find great joy in taking a can of aerosol paint and spraying obscenities on the sides of railroad cars, schools, churches and temples.

They love people like Joyce Burland who deny the public access to their own property. They get almost as much of a kick out of seeing a sign that says "no" as they do vandalizing a park.

Both ways they are getting their jollies because they are denying the public the right to use their property.

Liberals like Burland play right into their hands as they do on most human issues. As a result, the public gets shafted as long as they stay in office.

Politicians like Burland must be made to realize "parks are for people."

The needs of the great majority of Suffolk residents should be accommodated, rather than denied. Closing parks to all people to protect them against the small minority is just plain dumb.

Suffolk County parklands should be opened for limited harvesting of the dead wood they contain.

If Burland continues to refuse to open these parks to the public, the public should throw her out of office this November for her arrogance. She has little concern for the people and is not responsive to their needs. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'We are observers'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your article on the East End Courts was most interesting.

I am in complete agreement with the views set forth.

However, one point should be clarified. The League of Women Voters have fought hard and long for such measures of Judicial Reform as the Merit Selection of Judges. An amendment dealing with this will be on the November ballot. Hopefully, informed and conscientious voters will support this amendment.

We are not, however, "watchdogs". We are observers, and, in Family Court - monitors.

Any observations are offered in the form of constructive criticism. (L-5H)

Sincerely,
Joy Carolyn Butt
East Quogue

'Hooray for your editorial on gun control'

Dear Editor:

Hooray for your Editorial on "Gun Control". Taking guns from law abiding citizens will do nothing but encourage criminals to use them. (Would a criminal commit the crime if he thought the home or business place were armed and ready?)

Let's have a mandatory 20 year jail sen-

tence for a gun related felony. Or make it for any hand gun crime if you wish. A law of this nature would work if it were enforced. (L-7H)

Yours very truly,
Allan B. Doxsee
Westhampton Beach

'Vote no again and again'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This is with reference to your fine editorial of a few weeks back on the third vote of Sept. 19, 1977.

As one of the growing number of people all over the country who believe that soaring costs of education SHOULD NOT BE FINANCED BY TAXES ON HOMES, it seems to me that the only way for us to bring about the change is to VOTE NO again and again on the school budget. (L-6H)

Domashenko
Riverhead

'For a cleaner town government'

From out the Bays was heard a clang! Two teamwork and a brand new gang. They favor rules And cleaner pools; For Supervisor: Martin Lang. Frank M. Re Hampton Bays

VOL. 17 NO. 57

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Wednesday, September 21, 1977 SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS PAGE 3

Why not sell to Panama?

The Panama Canal was built by the sweat of the American peoples' brow. They sacrifice their lives and millions of dollars in hard-earned taxes.

The Panama Canal was built for a purpose, to allow the expedient shipping from our east to west coast. It was a worth-while project that was and is needed.

The Panama Canal was a business proposition that has not only enriched America, but has contributed to the

economy and well being of the Republic of Panama and most Central American countries.

When we built this canal across the Isthmus of Panama, we did so, knowing the government of Panama was subject to violent changes and, therefore, got a treaty giving us the power to run it forever.

Nationalists in Panama and eggheads in this country have been advocating our government to give up

its sovereign right to run this vital transportation link.

President Carter recently entered into an agreement to make this give away a fait accompli, if the U.S. Senate ratified the agreement. Before the Senate approves this pact, serious consideration should be given to other factors besides international politics.

Under the terms of the contract, the U.S. government will give the canal to the Panamanian government.

In addition, we will pay millions of dollars in royalties to operate it over the next 20 years. At that time, the Panamanian government will take over the installation without paying this country a penny for our billion dollar investment.

If we want, as a country, to get out of Panama, because of international politics, that's one thing, but who in the devil said we should get out without being compensated for our investment.

If Coca-Cola owned a bottling plant in Panama and the Panamanian

government decided to nationalize it, wouldn't we expect the Panamanian government to compensate Coca-Cola for their investment?

If the Chase Manhattan Bank established banks from the Pacific to the Atlantic and the Panamanian government decided to take them over, do you think David Rockefeller would for one minute stand still for not being compensated for the bank's investment?

He wouldn't stand still and neither should we, the stockholders of America, the citizens, stand still for our government giving up this valuable property for nothing.

We could use any proceeds from such a sale right here in Eastern Long Island.

If any country wants America out of their installation, which represents an investment of American dollars, they should be expected to compensate the American people for their investment. The Panama Canal should be no exception. And why not?

Transferring burden won't solve welfare problems

President Carter has indicated he is seriously looking into the welfare problem.

During the last three years, the idea of transferring funding and handling of welfare from the local to the federal government has become more popular.

John Klein, county executive of Suffolk, has jumped on this issue to propell himself to Washington.

He is running around the county reminding burdened taxpayers that 56 per cent of their county budget is spent on this single item. He then asks, "Wouldn't you like the federal government to do something about?"

That's like asking a five-year-old skeptic if he believes in Santa Claus on December 23rd.

Of course, all of us want something done with welfare. We are sick and tired of paying astronomical real estate taxes to our towns and county government. But, we are looking for real relief, not just a transfer of the pocket which will be picked. This is all John Klein is offering. He and his cohorts want welfare to be financed by the federal government.

If the federal government finances welfare, you can bet your sweet bippy it can only be accomplished through an increase in federal taxation or additional printing of "funny" money, which is the cause of crippling inflation.

Transferring the responsibility of welfare from Suffolk County to Washington is a gutless way of facing

the problem.

John Klein right here in Suffolk County could have more effect on welfare if he had the capacity to approach this catastrophic problem with courage and determination.

Klein lacks this essential ingredient. He fears taking the steps to end the welfare abuses that perpetuate the system, for he fears he will lose votes.

Klein much prefers to perpetuate the "con" game he is so adept at, by saying there is little we can do in Suffolk County and in the state of New York to halt or control welfare.

Klein ignores the fact that welfare costs right here in Suffolk County are one of the highest in the nation. The costs here are the highest because Klein, as chief executive, and the county legislature refuse to say "no" when faced with demands.

Many of the welfare projects the county is involved in could be done away with. Many of the grants given to recipients can be trimmed back.

Many of those who are eligible for welfare in Suffolk County can be legitimately denied, if Klein and his cohorts had the guts to say to the federal and state governments, we are taking care of welfare with our own money and on our own basis.

There is no Santa Claus in Washington. There never was and there never will be. We hope Suffolk residents reject Klein's latest fairy tale. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'Spaying a female dog should be a must'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

As a dog lover, I felt sad at your dog story, but I realize one has to put across the point that the dog population must be controlled. Spaying a female dog should be a must & people who have them should go along with this. However, I don't like the part of your story where the lout kicks the dog. You should have gone further and had a man with a 44 caliber gun step out of the bushes and blow him away. I could have enjoyed that as my feelings for animal abusers are not normal. As a matter of fact I personally knew a man who loved dogs, who blackened a man's eye and kicked him in the scrotum, because he left his dog in the truck of his car on a hot day. The victim had to go and see a

doctor. Everybody around was happy and he didn't dare to sue the dog-defender because he knew he also owned a gun. He was never afraid to threaten anyone of the consequences of harming his dogs either. He did a lot for stray animals - advertised in the papers and got homes for them, harbored them in his yard and fed them in the meanwhile and I'll say this much he got a home for every stray dog and cat he found. His own beloved dog got a real granite headstone when it died of old age.

So, I'm telling you this as it is a true story about a real animal lover. L-19H
Sincerely yours,
Colina W. Donnelly
Wading River

'There's no need now to complain. It's too late'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Before my retirement in Nov., '72, I was employed by the New York Air National Guard as a Real Property Technician whose duties were to maintain records of locations, size and maintenance needs of the physical properties utilized by the Guard.

Would you consider the following list as worthy of your time to print and see what people would think of it?:

1. High speed monorail system operating - parallel to the LIRR from both Babylon and Ronkonkoma to Montauk with same stations as stopping points.
2. Express bus lanes from both Babylon and Ronkonkoma connecting the L.I.E. and running parallel there with periodic stops and additional parking places for commuters.
3. Continuing advertising campaign in the Tri-state area stating advantages to locate their industrial businesses at Suffolk County Airport and the surrounding 3,800 acres of fine parcels handy to the Montauk and Sunrise Highways which connect to the L.I.E. and the LIRR.
4. Overseas cargo planes and light jets can use the airport facilities as well as first class spaces for over-the-road trucking.

Mr. Willmott, there's no need NOW to complain over the following facts because it's too late:

1. Erection of new college buildings at Western Riverhead for the Suffolk County Community College which could have utilized similar buildings at the Suffolk County

Airport as are used at Mitchel Field, Garden City for the Nassau Community College. I served at both bases and many of the buildings at Mitchel were modernized to save the taxpayers money.

2. Erecting a new Southampton town police station for \$966,000 which will be similar to size to a practically new redbrick building at the main gate entrance to the airport with plenty of parking space for its business. What a savings to the taxpayers of Suffolk down the drain.

3. Construction of BOCES buildings directly across the road from the airport's main entrance instead of using existing good quality buildings (with some renewal of necessary equipment).

When can we expect to see some signs at both approaches to Exit 63 on Sunrise Highway depicting the location of the curiously unused Suffolk County Airport with its very useful New York National Guard which to this writing has saved 13 boaters in this area in conjunction with our fine Coast Guard at Hampton Bays? I've been trying for almost five (5) years to get someone in Albany to wake up to the taxpayers' needs out here.

Thank you in advance, Mr. Willmott, for all your previous championing of causes for taxpayers. (L-17H)
Respectfully submitted,
Sidney Stern
East Quogue

SUFFOLK LIFE

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North Fork
South Fork
Riverhead
Hampton West

Mastic/Moriches
Patchogue
Medford/Holbrook
Sayville
Ronkonkoma

Coram/Middle Island
Selden/Centereach
3 Village/Port Jefferson
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willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

READERS' OPINION

'Some changes are being made'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I do not know the man personally, County Executive John Klein. Why do people down him so bad? He does his job every day the same as other politicians do theirs. You say in your paper, that he does not care about middle class working taxpayers. Well now, the middle class man (and I say only recently) can feel almost as the poor man or woman to live and survive. If the welfare standards would change for the better, (for the people), women like myself who are alone and raise children would be able to change their life a little better. Let me refresh your memory. It was 1970 or '71. You wrote an article on how the welfare people have cars, clothes and color TV. Well, in a reply to that article, I wrote (look it up), I had a TV, B&W that in order for you to watch it, your eyes went up and down with the picture, a radio you had to hit to listen to it, and I was only able to get one pants outfit.

Well now, it's seven years later. I am only now able to somewhat change my life style. I can now go to work with supplemental help from S.S.D. I am going to school 3 nights a week with a government student loan. After I

have my license as a cosmetologist, it will take me one year to graduate. But in the end, maybe after I have my license, my children and I can live from week to week instead of one small check \$300.00 to be exact, a month to buy food, clothes, fuel, electric, water, etc.

Welfare is for people who really need help, regardless of the people who abuse it. My children, who age from 13 to 6 years old now require more and necessary things than what welfare has to offer. I, for one, am getting off the ground floor and I'm not getting off till I hit top floor.

If the County of Suffolk would stop complaining and get more jobs out at the East End, more people would be willing to work. As for the unemployment, if you go for a job, it's all the way in Queens. The county should get some companies to come out here where the land that is not being used can be put to use. Before we fall into the hands of people like under dictators, there has to be a change for everyone.

I'm sorry it was so long, but I had to let you know how some changes are being made.
C. Christi
Riverhead

'Rarely do they publish criticism of the curious'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Many, many thanks for publishing my recent letter relative to the action of our governor in extending various privileges to the unions to the detriment of the state's economy. Despite the fact the finances of the state are in precarious condition, the money was conveniently found to grant a generous increase to the state employees. No money can be found, unfortunately, to reduce or eliminate the outrageous sales tax.

It is encouraging to know there is at least one newspaper, Suffolk Life, which has the courage to print anything derogatory about the unions, which most intelligent people will

agree, are the major cause of much of the inflation and industrial unrest.

Letters similar to the one mentioned herein have been sent to Newsday but very rarely do they publish any criticism of the unions. With huge amounts of untaxed wealth, the unions have been able to literally purchase many of our representatives who are so favorably disposed toward their benefactors that our once proud nation is gradually reduced to the land of the parasite and the home of the free-loader. (L-12K)

Very truly yours,
William M. Sauter
Calverton

'These broadcasts will be dearly missed'

Dear Editor:

The Mid-Day Meditations Broadcast from Radio Station WLNG, sponsored by Don Crawford of Sag Harbor, has recently come to a close after 14 years on the air.

Don Crawford first commenced this Broadcast the day after WLNG first opened in August of 1963.

During these years, he has had some 550 people and groups of people, from 3 years old to 100, locally and from all over the world, give their Christian testimony in word and song.

He has also sponsored Christmas on eastern Long Island and Easter on eastern Long Island, when he would gather the musical tapes from 20 to 25 churches and schools of eastern Long Island and broadcast them for 1 1/2 hours on Christmas and Easter Sundays for the past 10 years.

These Broadcasts will be deeply missed by the people of eastern Long Island, as well as Don Crawford's cheerful greeting of "Hi, Friends and Neighbors!" (L-4K)
A Listener

'My cat died because nobody cared'

Gentlemen: I have been living on Long Island for nearly a year and haven't anything pleasant to say about it. It seems to me the majority of the people out here are rude and arrogant. There's no such thing as courtesy on the road. The people are too busy keeping up with "the Joneses" to utter a word of kindness such as "Hello." If all this isn't enough, after what happened last night, I felt compelled to write.

It was about 8:30 when I heard this screeching outside. I looked out of my window, but only saw the back lights of a car and some kids on bicycles riding along the side, (despite paying nearly \$200.00 a month in taxes, we have no street lamps and not even curbing to form a side walk), I thought the car had stopped for the kids. About an hour later, someone told me it looked as if my cat was dying, and dying it was. The screeching I had heard earlier was the car that had hit our cat. They didn't even stop to make sure everything was all right. Perhaps if they had I would have found out sooner and possibly saved her life. Our cat had walked across the lawn, up the stairs, and was lying there in front of my door.

I started calling veterinarians. All of the ones I contacted had answering services, and couldn't be reached and the services had no idea where I could obtain help. I made phone call after phone call. I called the police twice, the second time they took my name and number and told me they would try to get a doctor to call me.

Now, tell me, do these men have any right to call themselves doctors? A doctor is supposed to be there, when you need him, not from 9 to 5 or when he needs the money! Is the life of an animal so inferior to that of a

human being? Let me tell you I can't call myself an animal lover, but you don't have to be to see my point. If you simply feed an animal he will love you so much he will give up his life to save yours. Can anyone show me a human being like this?

Around 11:00 o'clock I got a call from a doctor, the police had contacted, but one minute earlier our cat had died. I thank you doctor, although I never got your name, and I also thank the police.

My cat died because nobody cared, because these men who are supposed to be "doctors" don't know how to interpret the meaning of their job.

For those of you who deem me crazy, a life which cannot be replaced was taken last night, and life, no matter how simple, is life.
L-7K

Jane M. Sever

'I oppose capital punishment'

Dear Editor:

I too oppose capital punishment. The taking of a person's very life is too drastic a punishment. Even if a person has taken other's lives, we should not retaliate "an eye for an eye...", but can in other ways punish and rehabilitate him and remove him from society for the sake of safety, for as long as necessary.

Abortion is murder, the deliberate taking of an innocent human life. Capital punishment is not taking of an innocent life, but is the punishment determined by society (to which punishment I am opposed).
Sincerely,
Ann Darcus

The deal nobody wants to talk about

The county legislature raised their salary by 33 per cent by unanimous vote a couple of months ago. This salary increase is to take effect January 1.

Legislators claimed this gives the voters a chance to vote on their salary by either accepting them or rejecting them in November when they come up for re-election.

Of course, this is hogwash. You do not elect or reject a candidate solely on one issue. Furthermore, whoever is elected will get the salary increase, so in reality, the voters have no say.

What is even more astounding is the charge being leveled by legislative candidate from the first district, Dennis Hurley, that a deal has been made between the Republican and Democratic leaders that candidates on both sides of the fence would not discuss this or make it a campaign issue.

In one of his first campaign appearances, Hurley came down hard on the increase his opponent, Joyce Burland, had voted for. He thought nothing of it as it was a logical campaign issue, till all hell broke loose.

Hurley charges his town leader called him in a panic and he had just gotten a call from Blue Point wanting to know what the hell was going on with Hurley.

Didn't he know that the leadership of the Republican party had made a deal with the leadership of the Democratic Party not to discuss these pay raises?

It seems like somebody had forgotten to tell Hurley these ground rules were in effect.

Hurley, a novice to politics got his first taste of the backroom. He didn't

like it. He had the illusion that in a democracy, issues important to the people should be debated and talked about in front of them.

Hurley, an attorney, did a little research. He has found those legislators who voted on this issue with the knowledge before hand that it would not be debated during the campaign, could be guilty of a felony and conceivably could be barred from ever holding public office again.

You don't have to go to Washington to find Watergate and dirty tricks.

It is deplorable, both the leadership of the Republican and Democratic parties could be so corrupt that they gaily get into the same bed and make a deal to screw the public they are charged with serving.

This one simple example shows not only the quality of leadership of both the Republican and Democratic parties, but is a clear-cut indication of the quality of our Suffolk County Legislature.

If they could be so dishonest on this issue, how could you believe them on any issue.

An election campaign is an exercise in democracy only if the public is allowed to hear all sides of all issues and the candidate's freedom of speech is not censored by the powerbrokers who have raped Suffolk County for generations.

We encourage you to contact the leadership of your party and demand this type of practice be put to an end. We also encourage you to demand of the candidate of your party and of the opposing party they discuss every issue openly and with honesty and if they won't, then deny them your vote. And why not?

Coast Guard sees the light

Good news, mariners! The Coast Guard announced this week, effective next year, they will monitor the C.B. radio frequencies.

Up until now, the Coast Guard stonewalled on this issue and refused to recognize the vital link Citizen Band radios installed in boats are, for safe communication.

Tragically, this arrogant decision by Coast Guard officials probably contributed to the loss of lives right

here on eastern Long Island.

Last spring, two fishermen drowned as a result of the Coast Guard not being able to be in direct communication with C.B.'ers.

We are pleased the Coast Guard has seen fit to change this policy. It will enable the Coast Guard to better serve the public and will enhance their image with boaters and the public in general. And why not?

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