

# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## No Carney, No Shoreham

The Republican primary election next week for the First Congressional District offers a prime opportunity for those Republicans who are concerned about the future safety and economic welfare of Long Island to do something about those concerns. Those Republican voters who feel strongly that the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant poses a serious threat to our future can take positive action to deliver a strong message to Washington that we will not have this plant shoved down our throats.

The track record of the Department of Energy and the Reagan administration on Shoreham has been clear: they are for it, and will do whatever is needed to help put that plant on line even though there are serious questions about its construction, and even though the costs that will be placed upon the ratepayers will be staggering. Make no mistake about it: unless Suffolk residents make it clear to Washington that they will not stand idly by and have their future put in jeopardy, the plant will become a reality after election day.

Suffolk Life readers have asked us continually: What can we do? Unfortunately, we have all felt frustrated by the steamroller tactics of federal officials and regulatory agencies on behalf of LILCO. We need a strong voice in Washington to express our point of view, to fight for us to prevent the wanton disregard for the public that worries about the financial status of the utility without regard to the safety of the public.

Here's the way we can make that happen:

Congressman William Carney is being challenged by county Legislator Gregory Blass in the September 11th Republican primary. Carney is a registered Conservative who, through a deal cut with the Republican bosses, has been allowed to run on the Republican line.

Blass is a legitimate Republican challenging Carney for the right to run as a Republican in

this November's election for the First Congressional District.

Carney has been in the pockets of LILCO from the beginning. He has been the one representative who has refused to listen to individual constituents, or organized groups. He has steadfastly refused to recognize the legitimate concerns of his constituents on this issue. He believes he knows better than his constituents what is good for them.

Carney has claimed to have explicit faith in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, even when the NRC tried to circumvent the rules designed by the government to protect the public. Carney was desperately needed to stand up and to speak out against this affront by this bureaucratic organization to stampede and override the safety of his constituents. He didn't. His actions at a Congressional hearing on the subject disgusted all county officials present, from both parties.

Carney, who pretends to be a Conservative, failed to raise his voice when the federal government attempted, through the NRC, to circumvent state's rights. True Conservatives would lie down and die before they would allow the federal government to even think about interfering with state's rights. Any good Congressman would fight to the bloody death over the federal government's interfering with state's rights that pertained to his Congressional district, but not Bill Carney. It was fine for state's rights to be pushed aside so long as it helped LILCO get a license to open Shoreham, even though his constituents were against it and the operation would place their lives in jeopardy.

Carney's benign attitude on the Shoreham issue has given aid and comfort to the utilities and encouragement to continue raping the public through cruel and unaffordable rate increases. There is no question that the PSC might not have granted LILCO the latest 20 per cent rate increase if Carney, the United States Con-

gressman, had been vocal in his opposition to Shoreham.

Unfortunately, those of us registered as Independents or Democrats cannot vote in the Republican primary, only registered Republicans are eligible. We encourage every registered Republican who is opposed to the opening of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, and will not be able to afford the huge rate increases the opening will bring with it, to go to the polls this coming Tuesday, September 11, and vote for Carney's opponent, Gregory Blass. A victory by Blass will tell Washington that they must start recognizing the legitimate concerns of Suffolk County residents, and not only listen to the propaganda of the Long Island Lighting Company.

Blass has a reputation of listening to his constituents and voting their convictions. Washington must learn from the voters in Suffolk County that there is something they can do and will do to protect themselves from LILCO and Shoreham. We will vote our convictions and throw out of office those who ignore us and refuse to abide by our wishes. A representative must be just that, a representative of the people, voting their wishes, performing the services they want accomplished.

Bill Carney has become arrogant, self-serving and a demigod who believes that he has no obligation to his constituents. He believes he knows better than they do and has no real responsibility to protect them from big business, big utilities or big government.

We know primaries are not the most exciting races in the world. A lot of registered voters tend to ignore them. But in reality, it is the rank and file's only opportunity to personally select the candidate of their choice and therefore, is probably more important than

the general election.

Shouldn't registered Republicans have a registered Republican representing the Republican party? Registered Republicans don't need a candidate made by deals of the bosses, one who has no obligation to the Republican party and has displayed no obligation to the people.

Carney's ineptness as a Congressman is not only felt in the matter of Shoreham. During the gasoline crisis, when Suffolk was losing allocations from gasoline stations that were closed, Carney did nothing. His constituent service is nil. His only claim to fame is that he is a "yes" man for the Reagan administration. But there is more to being a Congressman than voting as you are told. It takes a lot of concern for constituents in many matters, and the ability to speak out on behalf of those constituents, that make the mark of a good Congressman. Carney has failed on all counts.

If Carney wins, the fight over Shoreham will be severely handicapped. The future of our county will be subject to the threat of a possible accident at a plant which is the target of many charges of poor construction. We will face the possible need for evacuation from an area that cannot safely be evacuated. And the future electric rates, now reported to be over 100 per cent more, to pay for this mismanaged boondoggle will drive businesses and residents from our homes.

Send Washington a strong message. No Carney, No Shoreham. This is the finest opportunity Republicans have to speak out on the Shoreham issue. But do it now, before the general election campaign so that the Reagan administration hears our message loud and clear that we will not stand idly by and watch our futures disappear.

And why not?

## Talk Is Cheap

The Public Service Commission has long been the target of charges that it has become a mirror image of the wishes of the utilities it was created to regulate. Time and again the PSC has worried about and acted on behalf of the utilities in granting rate increases, giving scant, if any, attention to the financial impact its decisions have upon the public. The PSC very apparently feels it is above state law in granting the wishes of the profit seeking utilities.

A case in point is the recent decision by the PSC which has benefited the Long Island Lighting Company. The PSC administrative judge who heard the case recommended, based on the financial needs of LILCO, that it get the entire increase requested as soon as possible. And the PSC members, also voicing great concern about the financial condition of the mismanaged utility, echoed that view and swiftly acted to grant not only the rate increase, but also millions of dollars which LILCO and a partner utility expended in planning funds for an upstate nuclear plant which was finally killed by a PSC decision. In our view, and in the view of

many others, that decision violates the "Used and Useful" portion of state law which stipulates that the cost of a plant should not be borne by the ratepayers unless that plant is used and useful. It will never be.

Jerrold Oppenheim, assistant attorney general in charge of energy and utilities, said before the Shoreham Commission in September of 1983, the following:

"At the very least, the Public Service Commission must apply the principle codified in Section 61.5 of its rules. The principle is that public utility rates should be set only on the basis of amounts prudently invested in property devoted to public service. The commission's rule provides:

"Where return is involved or claimed, the utility shall establish by competent evidence the original cost of the property used and useful in the service . . . All such property not so used and useful shall be excluded . . ."

Thus, the PSC, in granting funds for a plant that was never built, was never needed, and was legally questioned from the beginning because of unclear ownership of the facility, violated not

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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

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## Talk is Cheap

Cont. from page 3

only the used and useful section of state law, but its own rules as well.

The question is, what will be done about it?

The answer should be that the attorney general's office should immediately take legal action to insure that state law is upheld. That section of state law which stipulates a plant must be used and useful before being applied to the rate base must be legally tested to clear away, once and for all, any questions that may exist about its legal status.

Attorney General Robert Abrams has made many headlines in taking a firm stand in support of the used and useful section of law, but talk is, as we all know, very cheap. The mark of a man's integrity comes when he is willing to take up the fight, and not simply just talk, to insure the people of this state do not suffer the consequences of imprudent actions by monopolistic utilities.

Sure, the attorney general's office did attempt a court challenge to invoke the used and useful principle in the case of the abandoned Sterling plant in upstate New York. But the court ruled against the attorney general because of a technicality dealing with whether the attorney general had filed his motion within the allotted time. In other words that action was too late. Was it procrastination? Foot dragging? Or calculated?

The PSC's recent ruling to grant funds for an imprudently planned plant—which the two utilities continued to plan even though ordered by the PSC to stop—provides a fine opportunity to test the

used and useful principle right now, once and for all. But will it happen? A spokesman for the attorney general's office said this week he knows of no plans for such an action, but would "check into it." We're still waiting for that answer. If history is destined to repeat itself, the time may pass us by and we'll again be too late.

One of the primary responsibilities of the attorney general of the State of New York is to insure that state laws are upheld. Violations of those laws should be the cause for immediate action, without delay, of that office, whether the violator be an average citizen, a corporation, or a regulatory agency.

We will now see if Attorney General Robert Abrams is a man of his word, as is Governor Mario Cuomo who has taken a strong stand to protect the safety of the public in the matter of Shoreham—despite stinging criticism from the pro-nuclear and big buck allies of the utilities. Is Abrams a man of principle, as is Cuomo, or is he all talk but no action? Can we depend upon Abrams, as an elected official of the State of New York, to live up to the responsibilities of his office? Or is he, as is the Public Service Commission, in bed with the utilities?

Abrams can answer those questions by immediately filing legal action to invoke the used and useful portion of state law.

If he fails to take such action, he should be clearly known as a man of political rhetoric with little concern for the public which elected him to office.

And why not?

## A point of view

# Legislator responds to public service message

The following letter was sent by Suffolk County Legislator Robert L. La Bua to Arthur Hug Jr., chairman of the board of the Long Island Trust Company, which has initiated an advertising campaign on behalf of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your newspaper advertisement entitled Shoreham Update 2. Your cover note states "With a major stake in the future economic health of Long Island, we have prepared this advertising series as a public service in the hope it will shed more light on the issues."

Since I am always open minded on crucial issues such as the future of Long Island, I read with great anticipation, your article offered as a public service. Mr. Hug, I must say I was extremely disappointed. I have always been under the impression that when offering information as a public

service, such information should be complete.

This advertisement reads as if LILCO themselves wrote it for you. As Chairman of the Board of Long Island Trust, you claim to be concerned with the future economic health of Long Island, yet you fail to mention the grim prospect of a 100 per cent increase in our rates, should Shoreham open. LILCO, in the white paper prepared by Mr. Catacosinos, pledged a 76 per cent increase over the first five years of operation. Some of the assumptions made by LILCO to justify the 76 per cent increase have proven to be inaccurate. The County Legislators feel a 100

per cent increase is more realistic, and the facts bear us out. What effect would this 100 per cent increase have on the future economic health of Long Island, Mr. Hug? Why is it you do not make any mention of this in your advertising campaign which is published under the guise of "public service in the hope it will shed more light on the issues." Perhaps you should meet and carry on a dialogue with some of us on the other side of this critical issue. In this way, you may be the one, some light may shed upon.

Just today, I heard of one Suffolk County business whose monthly electric bill has risen to \$80,000 per month due to the latest rate increase granted by the PSC to LILCO. According to the owner, this was the straw that broke the camel's back and he will close his facility here and move to more af-

fordable pastures. This is only the beginning, Mr. Hug. One question raised in your ad states "while additional capacity is being built, what kind of electrical service would Long Island have without Shoreham? How many brown-outs would the Island face and how would this affect its economic growth?"

I think the example given above painfully answers your questions. There will be an exodus of businesses and families from Long Island, and coupled with the discouragement of new businesses because of the highest power rate in the country, there will be no brown-outs, Mr. Hug. There will be more than sufficient power for those individuals and businesses who can afford to remain.

If you truly wish to offer a public service to the rate-payers of Long Island, per-

haps you will expend some of your resources to present "Shoreham Update 3" with input from some well informed and well intentioned legislators.

You may learn that our position on this issue is not politically motivated, as the media would have you believe. In fact, it is a bipartisan position. We have

nothing personal nor financial to gain, whether or not Shoreham opens, except the best interests of the people who elected us. This is our motivation. How strange it is that those special interest groups connected to LILCO cannot comprehend this!

Very truly yours,  
Robert L. LaBua  
Legislator

## Aid available to women

New Directions and the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc. (V.I.B.S.) are co-sponsoring a vital service for East End women. Two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., a trained advocate is available to provide information and accompany women through the Department of Social Services and the criminal justice system.

Advocacy provides needed support to victims of domestic violence, incest, rape and sexual assault. The legal system and Social Service system can seem overwhelming. East End women can be accompanied to courts and Social Service offices by the advocate at the New Directions Resource Center in Riverhead, telephone number 727-8840.



LIONS' DONATION—The Bridgehampton Lions Club has given Southampton Hospital a VCR television recorder for the Doctors' Library. Shown at the presentation are Frank A. Marotta, D.D.S. of Bridgehampton, John Pfister Jr., executive vice president/administrator of the hospital, Frederick C. Wicht, D.D.S. of Bridgehampton, and Jeffrey Willner, M.D.

## letters to the editor

### "What does 'Emergency' now mean?"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am a single working parent with three daughters. There exist many financially rough times for us but we try to pull together, working part time, children work when feasible, cut expenses, etc. If I were to deduct all expenses I incur as a result of working, my income would rival that of a welfare family—but I would be home and not contributing if on assistance (perhaps enjoying my girls) When I had to leave my home because of violent behavior on the part of my spouse I went to S.C.D.S.S. in hope of obtaining temporary housing close to my children's schools. I held a reliable position which I had no intention of terminating. They made it quite difficult hoping to discourage dependence. Finally they agreed to assist with one night in a Hampton Bays Motel which is at least 45 miles from our area. I was to have to transport from H.B. to M.I. then to work in Riverhead

back to M.I. then to H.B. each day. The H.B. room was unoccupied by us but not likely paid for. It was a little better for us to shift around with acquaintances staying in Riverhead, Medford, etc. No big deal? I spent a great deal of money (my income or assistance from friends) on gasoline, transporting to schools and back & forth to work.

I guess my point is "Anger." I legitimately needed emergency assistance not dependence, assistance from the county I pay taxes to! Most welfare recipients in these motels (especially in Yaphank) are on welfare for years, these conditions are not nice-but there are alternatives-like work! I make every endeavor to remain self-supporting and pray we remain the same. We could not receive reasonable emergency housing. I ask - What does "Emergency" now mean?

Yaphank resident & Taxpayer

## Time To Get Tough

Local public officials have, for many years, complained that the state Department of Environmental Conservation is non-responsive to the plight of local townships in trying to meet state mandates for waste disposal, water problems and a host of other concerns. DEC officials have bristled in the past over such criticism, and the current regional director, Harold Berger, is no exception. But Berger now has an opportunity to show with action, not merely words, just how responsive he and the DEC can be.

Controversy has long reigned over a landfill operation in East Setauket which the town has attempted to close because of ongoing problems. Brookhaven Town Councilman Donald Zimmer has worked long and hard on this problem, but, to date, with little success. But this lack of success is not Zimmer's or the town's fault. The DEC is to blame.

The East Setauket landfill operation, which is privately operated, does not have the required permit from Brookhaven Town to operate. That didn't stop the DEC from issuing a permit, however, and does not stop it now from pondering the issuance of a new permit to replace one that has expired. The town went to court to seek an injunction against the operation and to force its closing. But the court ruled against the town on the basis of the fact the DEC permit was issued.

The DEC should require each applicant seeking a landfill permit to meet all local regulations first, before issuing such a permit. But it doesn't! How's that for cooperation?

Zimmer has evoked the wrath of Berger for comments he has made complaining of the lack of cooperation from the DEC. But

Zimmer is right! The DEC, which tries to excuse its lack of enforcement in this problem and other landfill violations, complains it does not have the manpower to do an adequate job. Then why permit the operation of more privately-owned landfills than it can efficiently monitor? Why not work in cooperation with the towns in the approval and monitoring of such operations. Why on earth would the DEC issue a permit if it cannot guarantee that the operation will be operating within the law?

The ball is now in the DEC's court. If it does not act to insure that all local requirements are met before issuing any further permits for this operation and any others that are sought, it will clearly give notice that the DEC considers itself above all other levels of government and not willing to act cooperatively to resolve problems.

Islip Town, weary of the DEC's constant mandates without the funds to accomplish them, and angry over the lack of cooperation by DEC officials to resolve problems in a cooperative fashion, announced it would no longer take state produced garbage. Brookhaven Town, with Stony Brook University and the Stony Brook Hospital which produce tons of garbage that go into town landfill operation, should have learned a lesson from Islip's action. Faced with mounting piles of garbage, the state suddenly became more cooperative.

We think local towns ought to adopt a new motto in their dealings with the DEC: "Work with us and we'll work with you. Work against us, and you can take your garbage and put it elsewhere!"

And why not?

September 1, and the new rate used for the usage after that date. Simon insists that most underestimates, if they occur, would be minimal. Most estimates, he said, are accurate.

We would urge our readers to take a few minutes today to read their electric meters to see what the current reading is, and then compare that amount against the final reading on the last bill, as of August 31. That should give you a good idea how your estimated bill stacks up against your actual usage.

And then we would suggest you check your next bill very carefully to see if, indeed, that amount which has been underestimated, if

any, is pro-rated. If you feel there is something amiss, call LILCO to get it straightened out. If you get no satisfaction there, call Suffolk Life and we will follow up on your complaint.

Ratepayers have little to say about what we pay for our electricity. We are, unfortunately, the victims of a mismanaged utility and a weak-kneed regulatory agency, the Public Service Commission, which simply echoes what the utility wants and gives them all they ask. But we certainly should not pay more than we must.

Let's keep LILCO honest, however difficult that may be! And why not!

## Short Term Greed, Long Term Grief

The Long Island Association, in consortium with major banks, has developed a public relations campaign in support of the opening of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant by LILCO.

The banks, many of which are involved with loans and mortgages to LILCO and whose trust departments have been known to purchase stocks and bonds in LILCO, are trying to convince Long Islanders that the safety factors concerning Shoreham should be dismissed, and that Shoreham will be good for them.

This public relations drive, we believe, is driven by outright greed and is shortsighted at best. There are grave, documented doubts about the quality of design and construction at the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, by its own admission, said at best it has only examined less than one per cent of the plant. The NRC relies upon the integrity of the Long Island Lighting Company's management for assurance that 99 per cent of the construction and design of the project is adequate, accurate, and has met all safety requirements.

The banks want the plant on line so that their financial interests are secured, but what about your safety and security? What the banks fail to project in their advertised messages about Shoreham is the effect the plant will have on Long Island's future.

We know for a fact that if the plant goes on line and LILCO is al-

lowed to charge off all the costs of construction to the ratepayers, electrical rates over the next five years will go up between 120 and 150 per cent over what they were one year ago.

The banks should take a look at the economic projections caused by such a rate increase. Huge numbers of marginal homeowners will be forced into foreclosure. Some experts have projected between 20 and 30 per cent will face foreclosure. It has been further estimated that as many as 20 per cent of the businesses operating on Long Island will abandon this region for more economic, cost effective places to do business. In fact, several businesses have already announced plans to move because of the high rates.

Effectively what we are talking about is a reduction of up to one-third in the economic base of Long Island. This loss, and the forced conservation of others who will do everything feasible to cut their electrical bills, will produce an enormous short fall in LILCO's income, forcing even higher electrical rates for those that remain. It's a vicious pyramid that inevitably ends with the total collapse of the Long Island economy.

The banks have available to them sophisticated computers. They should be using them to do economic forecasts based upon a scenario of a 100 to 150 per cent increase in electrical rates and the effect it will have on the economy. We believe once they start looking at their own statistics their public relations campaign and support for the Long Island killer, LILCO, will come to a screeching halt. Because they will find that they will be faced with huge defaults from the customers, the businesses and residents of Long Island, all caused by the soaring rates.

Couple this with the findings by the state that up to \$3 billion of the cost of the project were imprudently incurred. If the company, as required by law, has to absorb this cost, it still will be bankrupt.

Take the scenario one step farther. An accident does happen at Shoreham, no worse than Three Mile Island, and nobody is directly killed by radiation. Hundreds of people, however, are killed and injured trying to escape. Paranoia sets in; no one wants to live near a

## Watch Your LILCO Bill!

Suffolk Life readers will have good reason to complain about higher electric bills in the future because of the rate increase which went into effect on September 1. A number of ratepayers will find their next bill unusually higher because most bills since May have been estimated, rather than based on actual readings. And from what we've heard, those estimates have been low.

Normally this would simply mean the next bill would reflect a catch-up for the electric used above the estimated usage. "But at what rate? The lower rate, or the new higher rate?" is the question asked by one ratepayer. She was told by a LILCO business office that she would be billed at the rate in effect, which would mean, of course, that she would be paying the higher rate for electricity used before the rate increase went into effect.

Ken Simon, spokesman for LILCO, denied this practice would be

used. The next bill, he said, would be based on a pro-rated basis for per day usage, with the old rate applied for that used before

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Westhampton	Oakdale		
Moriches	Ronkonkoma		



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## Short Term Greed... Cont. from page 3

disabled, radioactive nuclear plant. Land values in the surrounding communities plummet. People give up and walk away from their homes, the mortgages to the banks, and the indebtedness they owe.

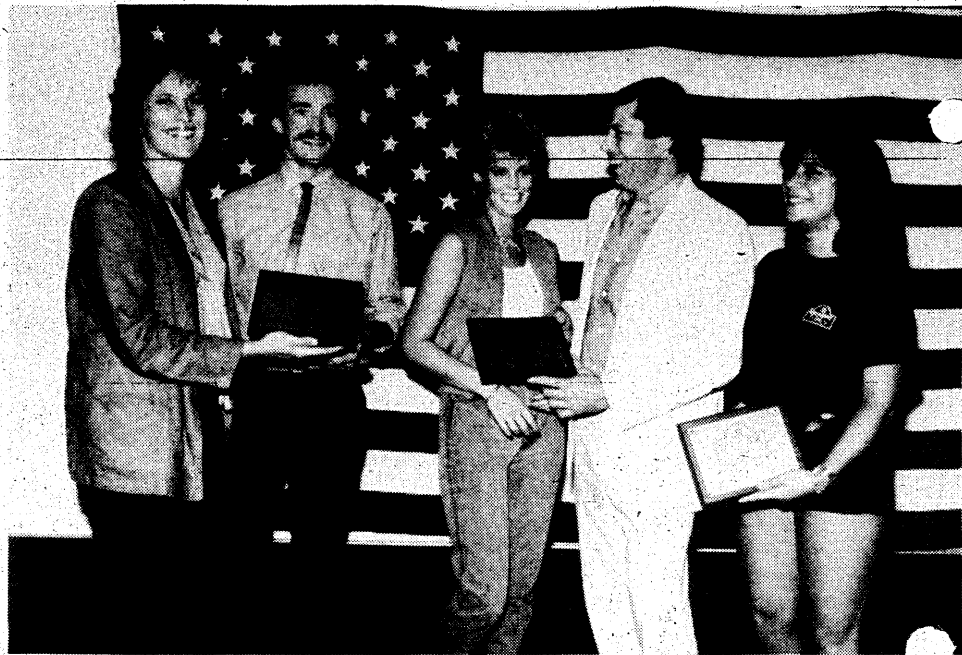
The rest of Long Island that dares stay will now be faced with paying for a plant that can't be repaired and the cost of buying substitute energy at then prevailing rates. Now there is double jeopardy for Long Island. The same banks that supported the Long Island Lighting Company are faced with even more foreclosures, an inability to meet their

debt requirements. Who do the banks turn to? Do they turn to the federal government for a bailout? How many Continental Illinois can the federal government bail out?

The banks' decision to support the Long Island Lighting Company is imprudent at best, perpetuated by shortsighted greed. In the long run, the banks stand to be hurt as much, if not more, as will be the consumers of Long Island.

There should be more thinking going on in the board rooms than there is socializing in the clubs with LILCO executives.

And why not?



**THE BEST SERVERS**—The Razmataz Club of Mattituck recently presented the Bartender and Waitress of the Year awards and the Razmataz Employee of the Year Award. Winners were Cliff Saunders of the Elbow Room in Jamesport, bartender of the year; Sherri Harbin of Villa D'Oro in Mattituck, waitress of the year, and Liz Murphy, who was Razmataz's employee of the year. Shown making the presentations to the winners are, left to right, Susan Buchinski, Saunders, Harbin, Ron Buchinski, owner of Razmataz, and Murphy.

## letters to the editor

### "Everything is fine with us"

Dear Sir:

About the letter by Martin L. Block concerning parking restrictions around Christ Our Saviour Lutheran Church. I think it's important for your readers to know that Mr. Block is not a member of this congregation, nor has he ever been, as far as I know, and does not speak for us or represent us in any way.

What he does not realize is that several years ago a group of us representing the neighborhood, the Church and the Boardy Barn met with the Supervisor and the Chief of Police to discuss how best to handle the overflow of Boardy Barn customers parking all over our community. The "No Parking At Any Time" signs were the best solution we could come up with.

Of course, such signs work a hardship on some of us, particularly on residents who might have more guests than they can squeeze into their driveways. In a couple of incidents we have offered our parking lot to

our neighbors. On Sunday mornings the police seem to have higher priorities than ticketing worshippers. While we appreciate Mr. Block's interest, we seem to be able to take care of ourselves (since the 16th century). I dislike the implications that we are somehow being discriminated against, and our Catholic brothers and sisters being favored: it simply is not true.

In summary: everything is fine with us; the signs are there for three months at our own instigation. About the only good thing coming from his letter is the suggestion that our parking lot is overflowing. If someone should, on Block's suggestion, show up with a camera, they may want to stick around for the Gospel in the service now switching from 9:30 to 10:30. All are welcome, including even Mr. Block, but not to park all night in the cul-de-sac.

Sincerely,  
Rev. John A. Kenreich  
Hampton Bays

### "An economic nightmare to the people of L.I."

Governor Mario Cuomo  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Governor Cuomo:

This Council is calling for the immediate removal of Chairman Paul Gioia and the entire commission. The credibility of this commission to act in the best interest of the ratepayers has been destroyed. These utility biased individuals have shown a blatant disregard for the paying public by unanimously approving a \$245 million increase for LILCO. The PSC should not be in the business of financing a mismanaged, trouble-plagued utility at the expense of the ratepayers.

You and the Democratic party have been espousing the American dream of fairness, opportunity and justice. These tactics of the PSC are an economic nightmare to the people of Long Island. You as Governor have jurisdictional review and authority over the members of this infamous commission. If a Governor can appoint, he can also remove for good cause. We submit that the pre-judging of the LILCO rate case by some

members is good cause for dismissal. Mr. Gioia indicated that his commission acted in the best interest of the people. The pro-utility posture of the Public Service Commission is no more in the public interest than it would be to allow a low-power license for Shoreham to contaminate the plant with radiation, knowing the non-existence of a permanent on site power operation and a feasible evacuation emergency plan.

We in the Council do not believe you should procrastinate, as this irresponsible commission will deliberate on the PSC staff's state audit report, that LILCO grossly mismanaged Shoreham, and should absorb \$1.8 billion of the nuclear plant's cost. We demand action, and not rhetoric on this most important issue.

Sincerely,  
William F. Romanchuk  
President  
Suffolk County United East End Seniors  
Council  
Riverhead

### "It's time to measure their devastating effects"

To the Editor:

It is unfortunate how often the formulation of our public policies is triggered by tragedy and spectacular headlines. Equally troublesome is that often when the headlines vanish, so does the public's interests.

In recent years headlines have told the story: MGM fire kills 84... 26 businessmen killed in Stouffer's blaze... 23 killed on Air Canada plane fire... ATT wiring smolders, 213 firefighters injured. They represent a disturbing recitation of fatalities and injuries and should leave no doubt as to the immediacy and importance of dealing with the issue of combustion toxicity.

When 80 per cent of fire deaths are caused not by burns but by inhalation of toxic smoke and gases, it is time to measure their devastating effects on our citizens' health and safety.

That is why I have recently recommended to the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Council a practical plan for action.

I have urged that certain building materials and furnishings be subjected to performance testing, thus providing information regarding the potential hazards pos-

ed to health and life by a fire.

There is, without question, a need to increase the quality and quantity of information that will be available to the public regarding the various properties of building materials and furnishings. The availability of this information will advance combustion toxicity research and enable architects, builders, owners and occupants of buildings to make wiser decisions when selecting materials and furnishings.

It is important that we fashion a public policy that will ensure a safe living environment for the citizens of our state. The adoption of my recommendations would be a first step in identifying the potential harm of combustion toxicity. Indeed, it would place New York State in a national leadership position in addressing the issue of fire gas toxicity.

In doing so, our action may only be a footnote in history, but it will help to avert tomorrow's spectacular headlines.

Sincerely,  
Gail S. Shaffer  
Secretary of State  
Albany

### "We are anything but militant"

Dear Mr. Willmott

Enclosed is a flier that was passed out to the parishioners after service in a local church, regarding the Riverhead School budget that had recently passed after the original budget was defeated.

As you can see, the flier calls us a "militant group" who do not even live in Riverhead. They say we have vehemently opposed the first budget.

As to the militancy charge, we are anything but militant. We are a group of senior citizens trying to live on a very modest and fixed budget. Yes, we did vehemently oppose the budget by going down and voting against it because we can no longer afford to pay the exorbitant rate hikes every year.

As for not living in Riverhead, that is true, but we do live in the Riverhead School District and have to support the school extravagances. How we wish we didn't live in Riverhead school district with one of the

highest school budgets in the County.

One thing the flier does not mention is that the Riverhead schools are receiving \$1,183,086.00 more in school aid from the State. That is a 32 per cent increase.

Voting down the school board's everlasting increases doesn't mean a thing, they just shave a little off the top and present it again, with their propaganda and have it passed.

As for the militancy charge, just what would anyone call the recruiting of students these fliers of half truths and insinuations? Who is the "Ad Hoc Committee" who wrote these fliers? No wonder they asked to have the fliers destroyed after they were read.

Sincerely,  
Civic Association of Mac Leod's Mobile  
Home Park  
Riverhead

### "Is this America?"

Suffolk Life:

Your last paper has a fine article about driving while having been drinking. I agree with all you say. But did you know that anyone apprehended is required to attend eight two-hour lecture sessions in Riverhead Monday evenings?

One of my family members has been in this program and has finished the course, and was told he could have his driver's license returned when he finished the lecture course. Well, now they say he will be required to attend 14 weeks featuring lec-

tures—"psychiatry"—before they will return the license. He doesn't need psychiatry anymore than you or I.

Is this America? Or Russia? He is a middle-aged man with a family to support. His business operates evenings and this is certainly hurting. His "crime" involved no other person or no other car. There's talk around that the program needs money. This 14-week course will cost him \$200 they say.

I will not sign this because I am afraid to.  
A Reader

## Fooling The Voters

"You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." The words in that well-known saying are fast coming true for Congressman William Carney, who just barely eked out a primary win over County Legislator Gregory Blass last week.

Despite the power of the incumbency, the strength of the Republican organization behind him and a steady stream of campaign dollars coming into his treasury from wide-spread utilities and their political action committees, Carney could only muster a victory margin of less than 800 votes. And absentee ballots may cut that margin. Less than 15 per cent of the registered Republicans voted in the primary.

Blass was handicapped in his campaign by a lack of finances to get his message across to the voters, especially in the western areas of the county where Carney gained his highest vote totals. In the East End, where the electorate is more aware and concerned about the very real problems of the Shoreham nuclear power plant, which was a major issue in the primary fight, Blass was an overwhelming winner. But in the west, where the GOP organizations have a stronger hold over the rank and file and where Shoreham itself is a bit more removed, Carney utilized his utility donations in a concentrated effort to win votes. Apparently people in those areas have not yet realized Carney's words are being provided by the monopolistic utilities, such as LILCO, to foster their own causes.

We applaud Blass for his strong showing against the odds of utility dollars and a Republican leadership more interested in political deals than it is in good government and representation.

Now that the preliminaries are over, the main battle will begin, and we predict Carney will find it much tougher to fool the people he did in the primary balloting. His November opponent, State Assemblyman George Hochbrueck-

ner, is better known in the western areas, especially Brookhaven Town, and has established a strong record of constituent service which is the major failure of Carney's activity as a congressman.

Hochbrueckner has fought long and hard against Shoreham, and has come up with a number of sensible alternatives. He has been in the forefront of efforts to bring low cost electricity from the Power Authority of the State of New York to this local area to offset the skyrocketing bills that LILCO now sends and has planned for our future.

Interestingly, Carney says he welcomes the battle against Hochbrueckner because it will offer an opportunity to talk about those issues which are voted upon in Congress. He uses that line often in an attempt to defend against his horrible record in the Shoreham battle, claiming he has no say over what happens in the Shoreham fight. He puts his full trust—and the future health and safety of his constituents—in the hands of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which is, and has been from the start, the promoters of the nuclear industry. It doesn't take a genius to figure out why. Without the nuclear industry, the need for and the power of the NRC is greatly diminished. The NRC is involved in self-preservation, and Carney, by sitting in their corner, is aiding in that effort.

The public should be aware of an important fact: it was in congress that the low power licensing bill was approved, and Carney voted for it. That is the bill under which LILCO is now seeking to get Shoreham approved for low power testing, even though there is no approved evacuation plan in place and all the final questions about Shoreham's safety have not yet been addressed. Once the fuel goes low power, LILCO is assured of a final license for the plant, and the opportunity to put it in the rate base. That means the ratepayers will begin to see their bills doubled, even if the plant does not go

on line for years.

That could well happen at Shoreham. An example: The NRC recently gave the Mississippi Power and Light Company and other owners approval for its Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. But the low power approval for that plant was given on June 16, 1982. It took more than two years for the final approval because "... the licensee has been addressing a number of issues preparatory to obtaining a full power license. Included were modifications to the plant because of design deficiencies identified during testing (editor's note: where were the NRC inspections during construction?); extensive review and corrective action relating to the technical specifications for operating the plant, assuring appropriate qualification of a sufficient number of reactor operations and the reliability of the emergency diesel generators." Sound familiar?

What this all means, of course, is we could well be paying for a nuclear plant for several years, even though it will not provide a single volt of power. And can you

Imagine the costs that will come during that period for changes and correction of "design deficiencies," and the impact those added costs will have on your electric bill?

Carney may have been successful in convincing some of his supporters that Shoreham is not a major issue, that it is a threat only to those who live in its shadow "out east." But Hochbrueckner, we're sure, will be able to get across the important message that the financial impact of Shoreham is not limited to school or municipal taxes, that Shoreham threatens economic disaster for every home and every business in and beyond the First Congressional District.

Carney has fooled some of the people to gain his primary victory. But he is going to have a lot of trouble fooling all of the people who will suffer the impact of electric bills that will double, prices that will soar, taxes that will escalate because of soaring energy costs, and the threat of evacuation hanging over everyone's heads.

And why not?

## Greed or Statesman?

John Rosso, the Suffolk County legislator from the Mastic-Shirley area, provided County Executive Peter Cohalan with the critical tenth vote last week which will impose an additional one-quarter per cent on the sales tax county residents must pay.

Allegedly, the sales tax increase will be used to correct some of the sins of the Southwest Sewer District caused by political corruption and outright thievery.

It came as a total surprise to many that Rosso would turn out to be the turncoat. Rosso had continually promised his constituents and all who cared to listen that he would never support an increase in the sales tax, which forces residents outside of the district to pay for something they will never benefit from. Only a couple of weeks ago he told a crowd of almost 500 residents of the Mastic area that he would never bail out the residents of the sewer district at the expense of his own constituents, who are sorely in need of pure water.

But then, without warning, he became the tenth vote. Rumors are rampant that he had long talks with the county Republican leadership prior to switching. He denies this, claiming he would never trust a promise by a political leader. The strange part is, however, he cast his vote "with conditions" but did not get assurance his conditions would be met before he gave away his vote.

Rosso tried to justify his vote as being statesman-like. The county government has been crippled over this issue, Shoreham legal funds have been held hostage, and someone had to break the logjam, he declared. He would have you believe he provided the tenth vote as an act of courage. Time will

tell. Somewhere in the future we will undoubtedly find out what price was paid.

You can take your pick from the stories that are floating around. Will John Rosso become the next presiding officer? Will he be appointed to a top position at the Suffolk County Water Authority? Will he be appointed to a position at the federal level? Did he sell out his constituents for personal gain?

From information that has filtered into our office, we have problems believing he did not discuss his vote on the sales tax with political leaders before he cast it to impose the sales tax hike on the public. If indeed such discussions were held, and Rosso's future does hold a new title, he will have paid a tremendous price... his name and reputation. He will be known from this point on as a politician who allowed personal greed to take top priority over the needs of his constituents.

If, as Rosso hints, his sales tax vote was part of a larger picture that will ultimately benefit the people of Suffolk County with lower property taxes and a more efficient and cooperative government, one that will work for the people and not for political gains, he may well have earned the statesman title he now seeks to wear.

But if clear evidence is not soon forthcoming that Rosso did not play politics with the finances of Suffolk's residents, that he was willing to take the heat over an unpopular vote to gain acceptance of proposals that would benefit the public, Rosso should be ousted from office to take his place with the other greedy politicians who have been retired in shame.

And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 24 No. 4

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## It's Too Late Now

There's an old saying that warns people sometimes "grow too soon old and too late smart." Those words come to mind because of a poll being taken on behalf of Congressman William Carney which wonders "What stand should Mr. Carney take on Shoreham?"

To ask that question now at this stage of the game is pure idiocy. Everyone knows what Carney's stand is on Shoreham—he's pro-nuclear, pro-Shoreham and pro-utility—and he has gone out of his way to give aid and comfort to LILCO and bent over backwards to excuse away the shortcomings of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which has done little to insure the plant's safety.

Apparently the strength of County Legislator Gregory Blass' showing in the recent primary against Carney has the Republican Party wondering what went wrong, and how it can smooth things over. But it's too late now. There's nothing that Carney can say about Shoreham that would offer any hope that he would take a strong stand on behalf of his constituents to protect them from an unsafe nuclear plant.

The GOP-Carney poll offers those interviewed an opportunity to respond with one of four answers—approve, strongly approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove, the following question:

"It's a federal matter and he has no say?"

Carney has tried to use this line for some time now, declaring the matter would be decided by the NRC and would not be voted upon in Congress. This is a cop out, however, for Carney, through the power of his office, should have had the influence to insure that the NRC takes no short cuts in the Shoreham proceedings, as they have, and double checks every safety concern, which they haven't. He could have worked with Suffolk County to help open the doors of that controversial plant for an independent inspection to protect the safety of his constituents if the plant does go on

line. He could have told the NRC that while he is in favor of nuclear power, he would oppose the opening of Shoreham unless and until the NRC could prove to him without a shadow of a doubt that the plant is perfectly safe. He has never taken such a public stand. He has put all his faith in the NRC, a regulatory agency which stands accused of being more of a promoter of nuclear power than a regulator.

The GOP-Carney poll asks these questions as well: "It's a local matter, not within his jurisdiction?" and "It's a state matter, not within his jurisdiction?" Carney knows the answers to these questions, he has said all along that it is a matter for the NRC to decide. In the most vital area of evacuation—the area in which county and state strongly oppose the opening of Shoreham because a safe evacuation plan is not possible—Carney has said nothing. He is perfectly content to sit back and permit the pro-nuclear NRC and Washington bureaucrats to consider approving Shoreham for low power testing even before an evacuation plan is in place. Has Carney spent so much time in Washington that he has forgotten what it is like to fight traffic and tie-ups on local roadways and the Long Island Expressway?

The GOP-Carney poll then wonders if Carney should do everything possible to see that Shoreham does not go on line? If it's not safe it should not open, period. But who will tell us it is or isn't safe? The NRC? When they themselves admit they do not inspect the majority of the plant's construction, relying instead on the quality assurance program of LILCO?

And the poll asks: "Even though he is in favor of the plant opening, he should abide by the wishes of his constituents and do everything possible to see that the plant does not open?" It would surely be nice if the local people, who will be impacted not only with the cost of the plant but by

the results of an accident, had a say in their own future. But Carney hasn't listened to the local folks all along, who would believe that he would in the future?

It will be very interesting to see how this poll comes out. If it is an honest poll, it should reveal to the powers that be in the Republican Party, who are supporting Carney not because he has been a great congressman but because of a political deal with the Conservative Party, that there is strong concern in the minds of the public about the dangers of Shoreham and their future safety. Carney has become so much of a Washington bureaucrat that he has lost sight of local concerns, but the local Republicans should have known that all along.

Surely the Republicans know

that it is too late now for Carney to become a defender of his constituents on this issue. Surely they know that no matter what Carney now says, the people will remember that he has gambled with their future health and safety with his tunnel vision support of the utilities who flow large sums of money into his campaign coffers.

We are in the final stages of the Shoreham battle, and it's too late now for Carney to start doing what he should have been doing all along—representing his constituents on the federal level to protect them from becoming the victims of the powerful lobbying efforts of the nuclear industry and the pro-nuclear decisions of the NRC. We need a new voice in Washington.

And why not?

## Sorry State of Affairs

Even though the proponents of the sales tax increase to help bail out the Southwest Sewer District were successful in that effort, the political games are still, apparently, being played and those who voted against that increase are still facing political retribution.

Reports indicate that a resolution calling for funds for a museum in the district of Legislator Robert LaBua of East Northport have been stalled because LaBua is being punished for opposing the sales tax increase. One sales tax increase supporter, Legislator Michael D'Andre of Smithtown, was quoted as saying, "Forgiveness is one thing, but there has to be some kind of discipline."

What kind of discipline? To whom? Is D'Andre suggesting the legislators must follow the orders of the political bosses who wheeled and dealt to pass the sales tax increase?

Do we really want our county legislators to be the puppets of the political leaders? Isn't that what caused the corruption and the tremendous cost overruns that turned the Southwest Sewer District into the county's worst boondoggle in history? Surely our legislators are not suggesting, by

engaging in their game of political vengeance, that they do not have minds of their own and are not capable of dealing with issues based on the merits of each and every proposal.

It's time the nonsense ends. The sales tax issue was the subject of much wheeling and dealing, and undoubtedly there were political payoffs to reward those who played the game the leaders demanded. The entire episode by which residents throughout the county must now help pay for a scandal-ridden project from which they will never benefit is not one that will generate much pride. But the Sewer Legislators won, and the people lost, and it is over.

Continued efforts to continue the retribution will give clear evidence that the Sewer Legislators have been down in the sewers so long that they cannot clear the muck from their minds.

What we need is more integrity, not "discipline." What we need are county legislators that will now look for ways to pare county expenses to offset the growing fiscal problems the county faces. What we need are legislators. Not puppets.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

As a teacher employed by a large school district here on Long Island, I felt compelled to take umbrage at several totally inaccurate and misleading statements in your editorial of July 11, 1984, "The One That Didn't Slip Through."

Our teaching contract each year runs from September to June for a total of 10 months, not 12. Our work year thus consists of 10 months' contractual employment and for two months we are technically unemployed. The statement that "teachers' income keeps rolling in even when they're off for the summer" is, at best, ludicrous. We receive a salary for only 10 months.

At the beginning of the school year we can elect to be paid on one of two fashions. We can be paid our 10 month salary with 21 bi-weekly checks from September to June. In the second method of payment we can receive our 10 month salary in 26 bi-weekly checks, thus making each check considerably less than if we had taken the

21-check option. This deferred set up, acting as a budget plan, enables us to be financially stable during the two months we are unemployed. Simply stated, we are hired to work for 10 months but have to live for 12. Perhaps Suffolk Life ought to do their homework before they print such irresponsible drivel!

As far as all those "greedy" teachers taking away summer jobs that are "desperately" needed by kids in school and other "legitimate" workers, may I refer you to the Business Section, page 1, Newsday, July 9, 1984, entitled: Wanted: Summer Help (It's Hard to Find). I suggest you read it, gentlemen. You might learn something.

Yours truly,  
Gary Capak  
Coram

**Editor's Note:** You have an option of your annual salary being paid every other week for 26 weeks. If there are more jobs than summer help than why is there a need for tax credits?

# SUFFOLK LIFE

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