

Looking Down Their Noses

With the saga of the infamous garbage barge nearing its end, the spotlight on the problems of garbage and its disposal will dim somewhat until the next crisis develops. And, unfortunately, public officials in the higher levels of government will continue to look down their noses at the towns, waiting for town officials to come up with some miracle that will make garbage go away. Like magic.

It won't, of course. No one has yet invented a "Poof, it's gone" powder to sprinkle over our refuse piles. In fact, no one has yet come up with any answers at all to guarantee we can eliminate our growing stream of garbage without polluting our resources. All we have is edicts, laws which say what we can't do. Laws created on the state level, and now, in true copycat style, being pondered in Suffolk County.

Historically, every "solution" that has been imposed has come back to haunt us. Incinerators were once a big thing. Then concern about air pollution came into style and incinerators were banned. The state Department of Environmental Conservation came up with what it termed was the answer. Landfills. "Dig a hole, or fill one already dug, with garbage, cover with sand, put in more garbage," in pure Dagwood sandwich style, and all our problems would be over. When the hole is filled to ground level, put down grass seed and you have an instant recreation field. That's what they said, to sell their new idea.

There were a couple of things they didn't say. Things they didn't, but should have known about: leachates and methane gas.

Enter the state legislature. State Assemblymen and Senators, looking down their noses at the town officials, and ignoring the fact it was a

state agency (DEC) which put the towns in the landfill business to begin with, came up with their own solution. Ban the landfills. By 1990.

Of course, they didn't say what to do with the garbage. That's the town's problem. Or how to finance a solution. That's a town problem. Other than a deposit law for bottles and cans, just a drop in the garbage bucket, they took no action on regulating the garbage stream from the very beginning, the source. They could control packaging. But they haven't. They could provide bucks to help resolve the problem. But they don't. They look down their noses at the towns. They say what not to do, but offer no expertise to solve the problem.

And now, there is a move in the county legislature to do the same with another "don't do" law that lacks the imagination necessary if this problem is ever to be resolved.

With landfills slated to be outlawed as of 1990, towns must move to resource recovery and, does this sound familiar?, incineration. They don't call it that these days, but that's what it is. Burning the garbage. Which creates ash. Which may well be toxic, causing an even bigger problem in disposal.

That's where the county legislature comes in. If the ash is found to be toxic, it can't be buried in landfills. The proposed legislation contains no suggestions as to what to do with the ash. Or funds to do it with. It's just another "don't do" law that gives legislators an opportunity to brag about doing something to protect our water. Just another level of government looking down their noses at the towns.

It is time, in fact, long overdue, that those officials on the upper levels of government start working

in cooperation with those on the town level to resolve the problems. They represent the same constituents, and it is those constituents who are producing the garbage that is causing the problem. The state DEC is fond of saying "truck it off the island." But guess who pays that bill? You, the public, the constituents of the state and county officials who impose restrictions without being part of the solution.

Why can't state and county officials sit down and work cooperatively with the towns? Why didn't they sit down with the towns and discuss the ash disposal concerns before coming up with legislation? Or the landfill ban? Do they honestly believe the town officials want to pollute the ground water? They keep saying the towns are not doing

enough. How would they handle the problem? What joint action—a combination of county and town and yes, even state—can be initiated to resolve the problem at the least possible expense to the public? Why don't they talk together, study together, act together, cooperatively?

The saga of the barge may soon end, but the legislative actions that caused it, and the continued lack of constructive legislative actions to bring a permanent solution, still leave a stench in the air.

We have a word of advice to those who like to look down their noses at the lower levels of government: If you're not going to be a part of the solution, stay the hell out of the problem.

And why not?

Paying Their Debt.

Those who are convicted of crimes pay their "debt to society" through incarceration. They're put in prison, locked in cells, where time hangs heavy on their hands. They are supported by the public, which benefits only by the fact that they are out of circulation and less able to commit another crime while imprisoned.

Suffolk County Legislator Gerard Glass (R-Babylon) recently proposed a resolution, approved by the legislature, creating an inmate work program which would utilize the services of the inmates in various work projects, notably the cleanup of littered road areas. There will be no compensation for inmates. "The Suffolk prison population will have to work to earn their keep. I do not support the notion of reimbursing inmates to clear their debt to society." We agree.

Glass points out that components of his bill require the County Sheriff to choose inmates for the program in a manner which is consistent with the safety of the public at large. "Inmates of a trustworthy character would be used outside the jail under intensive supervision, while those with a negative background would labor inside the correctional facilities," he reports.

Inmate work programs are not new. A Colorado program utilizes

inmates from the Colorado State Prison for the breaking of wild horses which are rounded up, tamed down, and then sold. When that program was first introduced, there were fears of injuries and lawsuits. But now, some of the inmates involved talk in terms of getting jobs when released at race tracks, as veterinarian assistants, or on ranches. Rather than spend their time being locked in cells, they have learned new skills, and have gained a feeling of accomplishment.

Other prison work programs have also been successful, and there is no reason why inmates at the Suffolk County Jail should not pay their debt to society in some meaningful fashion. And, at the same time, be involved in a program of work discipline which might pave the way for a successful, and permanent, return to the world of freedom.

Work programs, whether for inmates or for able-bodied individuals on our welfare rolls, offer a good opportunity for those who break our laws or seek assistance, to perform service to the public which must pay the bill for their keep while they are incarcerated. We hope the current program is successful, and only the start of more to come.

And why not?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regarding 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.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

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How Much Do You Care?

How much do you care about the operation of the governments which impose taxes, control the growth of our communities, and legislate in many ways that which we can do and that which we can't?

Do you care little enough that you only complain when something hap-

pens that you don't like? Or do you care enough to be a participant in the selection process that selects those who sit in official positions? Do you suffer from voter apathy? Or are you a concerned citizen who wants to be

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... Do You Care?

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a part of making our communities and our environment better?

We currently stand on the threshold of a new political season. In just a couple of short weeks, voters in the Republican and Conservative Parties will go to the polls to choose the candidates who will carry the banners of those parties into the November general election. If this is the same as other years, very few voters will participate in the primary balloting. A small fraction of eligible voters will bother to go to the polls. The majority will sit back and permit a small minority to name those who will become the official candidates to run for public office.

Normally, the complaint is that the political leaders in the smoke filled back rooms pick the candidates. And, normally, the political leaders do make the decisions which are then reaffirmed at orchestrated conventions. But a primary offers the registered voters in political parties an opportunity to have an important say in the selection process. Sound logic would say that most people would want to have a say in their governmental process. But reality tells a different story.

The turnout will be larger in November, but a lot of people will not bother to participate in the democratic process. It's a shame, when you stop to think about how many American lives have been lost in foreign lands where democracy is a

dream, not a fact. Many young Americans have shed blood, and have given their lives, to preserve or achieve democracy in lands where the people have no say. Where dictators, or a communistic government, rule their lives and their destinies.

In our land we have a democracy, we have the right to participate in our government by being a part of the selection process. We can vote against those whose actions we oppose. And support those who work on our behalf. But we can't do that by staying home on election day.

If you would rather sit home than take part in the democratic process, think about those who would rather have stayed home than go to fight for freedom in foreign lands. Who would rather be alive than dead. Then go out and vote. Cast a vote for the democratic process by casting a vote for those who would be our governmental leaders.

Voter apathy does not only have an impact on the turnout at the polls. It breeds a "public be damned, because the public doesn't care" attitude in those who are elected and legislate our lives. Let's show them that we do care, that we're serious about wanting good government. We can do that by voting in the primary balloting and in the November general elections. Cast your vote for democracy, and for good government, by voting this year.

And why not?

age of the indemnification legislation in the State Senate, where the bill passed by one vote.

Under the bi-partisan leadership of the governor, LIPA Chairman William Mack, LIPA board member and Consumer Protection Board Chief Richard Kessell, State Senators Ken LaValle, Caesar Trunzo and Jim Lack, Assemblyman Patrick Halpin and every member of Long Island's State Legislative delegation, LIPA became a rallying point for the good government, pro-consumer forces, against the narrow self-interest of LILCO. Such a display of bi-partisan leadership has had an important role in LIPA's steady movement forward.

Your oft-stated judgment that "Governor Mario M. Cuomo has never been too keen on LIPA to begin with,"

is simply incorrect. The governor has been a long-time supporter of public power, giving the idea new impetus following LILCO's disastrous handling of power outages in the aftermath of Hurricane Gloria. He supported and signed the original LIPA legislation, made five outstanding appointments to the LIPA board, and personally called individual legislators to gain their support for the LIPA indemnification bill. Isn't that evidence of support?

The LIPA board—comprised of nine of Long Island's leading citizens with exemplary careers in banking, consumer protection, investment and real estate, community action, education, law and public service—is moving ahead prudently, responsibly and firmly committed to the

goals of the LIPA legislation. LIPA Chairman Mack has set a 30-90 day timetable for a final decision on the question of a public takeover of LILCO.

Indeed, the LIPA board is not wasting time, it is carefully managing it, thoroughly examining an internal, draft comparative rate analysis prepared by Lazard Freres, and winning new respect each day within the financial community and inside the halls of government.

LIPA's pace may seem too deliberate to some, but then, so did the tortoise's. And we all know who won that race. Sincerely,
Stephen Villano, LIPA Vice-President, Administration and Public Affairs Mineola

'Takeover requires careful study'

To The Editor:

I was most interested in the recent column written by David Willmott entitled "The Race Is On." Mr. Willmott's column addresses an issue of importance to us all — Shoreham and the future of Long Island's energy supply.

As usual, Dave Willmott is right on target when it comes to the issue of Shoreham and protecting the health and safety of the people of Long Island. Mr. Willmott seems to be somewhat apprehensive, however, about the actions of the Cuomo Administration and the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). Let me reassure both him and his readers that both Governor Cuomo and LIPA are doing everything possible to help the people of Long Island.

Mr. Willmott and other Long Island residents wonder why LIPA is moving at such a slow pace. Why not just take over LILCO, they ask? While I can understand their interest in resolving this issue as quickly as possible, it is important to comprehend the complexity of

this issue. A public takeover of LILCO would be the biggest takeover of a public utility in the history of the country. Such a move, involving billions of dollars, cannot occur overnight. Rather, it takes careful study and review to ensure that whatever LIPA does benefits the people of Long Island.

The fact is that LIPA, under the leadership of Chairman William Mack, has moved rapidly and prudently towards making a decision as to whether or not to pursue a LILCO takeover. We must all keep in mind the fact that LIPA did not begin to operate until January 15 of this year. In less than eight months, the board has gathered the relevant information necessary to make an informed decision as to whether a public takeover is economically feasible. Furthermore, the LIPA board has assembled a team of top flight investment banking firms to put together a takeover financing if LIPA decides to proceed.

Governor Cuomo's concern for Long Island con-

tinues to be strong and unbending. The governor and his administration have done everything possible to oppose the commercial operation of Shoreham. And, when the chips were down and the very existence of LIPA was threatened, it was Governor Cuomo who used his power and influence to assure passage of legislation which indemnifies LIPA trustees and thus allows LIPA to move forward. Without the governor's strong and forceful leadership, LIPA would be unable to move forward with its mission.

Dave Willmott and Suffolk Life are significant players in the LILCO/Shoreham/LIPA issue. Certainly, Suffolk Life helped create LIPA. I can assure Suffolk Life and its readers that we are moving as quickly as possible towards rendering a decision. Sincerely,
Richard M. Kessell State Consumer Protection Board Albany

'What about our living veterans?'

Dear Editor:

When are we going to take care of our live veterans?

Today, more people and veterans organizations are more interested in monuments for our veterans. As a Vietnam veteran I think it is good, but we must take care of our live veterans and families too, also our P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s from Vietnam (2425) and Korea (389). All the monuments in the world aren't going to help them today. Today, in America 1/3 of the homeless are veterans. With all the cuts in the budget on veterans' benefits and veterans' hospital care, it isn't right. If it wasn't for all the veterans in America, she wouldn't be such a great and rich country. Smaller countries take better care of their veterans and families, better than ours. They come first not last. If all the veterans organizations got together as one, the politicians would listen and make things better for the live veterans and their families. All the families of veterans should speak up. Elections will be coming up again real soon. Get out and ask the politicians who are running what they are going to do for veterans and vote. We gave so much as veterans for our country and we get so little in return. The people who don't have veterans in their families should sit and think, it could happen to one of their loved ones in the future.

America, please speak up for us today.

Thank you,
Vincent A. DeName Shirley

'On clerk typists'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This is in regard to Mr. Aug's column last week on clerk typists in which I was quoted as saying that the upgrading would put the clerk typists in step with senior clerk typists. Please be advised that I never mentioned anything about clerk typists being in step with senior clerk typists.

To set the record straight, at present, clerk typists are at grade six; the stenographers are at grade seven; and the senior level clerical employees are at grade 10. The proposed upgrading would put clerk typists at grade eight.

I would appreciate your printing this letter inasmuch as I have had numerous calls questioning me as to why this statement was made.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. Very truly yours,
Alan Schneider Department of Civil Service Personnel Officer

Letters to the Editor

LIPA deliberately deliberate

To the Editor:

Your editorial of Wednesday, August 12, 1987 entitled, "The Race Is On," advanced several erroneous statements and mistaken judgments in need of correction.

The Long Island Power Authority is by no means a "long shot that may not leave the starting gate before the race is over." Twice within the past year, both houses of the State Legislature passed—and the governor signed into law—legislation creating and strengthening LIPA. Earlier this month in Hauppauge, Republicans and Democrats, state and county officials, participated in Governor Mario M. Cuomo's signing of the LIPA indemnification bill—a crucial piece of legislation designed to protect LIPA board members and officers from personal liability in the event of lawsuits arising out of LIPA's official actions. How many "longshots" have such widespread and enduring

governmental support?

Contrary to your statement that "LIPA has been more talk and study than action," LIPA has been building its foundation brick-by-brick, carefully assembling its facts, hiring full-time staff, opening its headquarters in Mineola, hiring a consultant to prepare a study on whether there would be ratepayer savings if LIPA were to proceed with a takeover of LILCO, selecting five of Wall Street's major investment banking firms to be LIPA's underwriting group in the event LIPA decides to proceed with negotiations or an acquisition of LILCO and successfully defending against LILCO's claims in federal court.

The solid, methodical work done by LIPA in the first seven months of its existence may make for glitzy headlines, but it does get results. Wall Street has taken careful notice of LIPA's prudent course of action. LIPA's vic-

tories in federal court and the actions of the State Legislature have demonstrated that LIPA is here and is for real.

Indeed, LILCO knows that LIPA's meticulous, sure-footed course of action is to be taken seriously. That is why LILCO and Mr. Catacosinos tried, unsuccessfully, to have the original LIPA legislation declared unconstitutional in federal court. That is why New York's electric utility companies worked like whirling dervishes against the LIPA indemnification legislation in the State Senate. Fortunately, LIPA and the people of Long Island triumphed in both instances.

Supporters for the LIPA legislation have rave reviews for the work of Governor Cuomo, Lt. Governor Stan Lundine, Deputy Secretary for Energy and Environmental Affairs Frank Murray and other members of the governor's staff in securing pass-

Primary Choices: Your Move

Voters will go to the polls on Tuesday to participate in the selection process for candidates for various county and town offices. The primary balloting offers the rank and file members of political parties an opportunity to play a part in the decision-making process. We urge you to vote. To participate. To make the primary system worthwhile.

Primary balloting is a beginning, rather than an end. For the victors in the primary day balloting, it marks the beginning of the campaigns leading to the November general election. The head on head battle between the major contenders, with, hopefully, the issues taking over in the center ring.

For Suffolk Life, the primary balloting marks the beginning of our long, exhaustive interview process, which leads to our endorsement selections. Meanwhile, our reporting staff will be covering the campaigns, exploring the issues, asking hard questions. When a candidate vows to "cut taxes" we want to know how. What will be cut? What won't be? If affordable housing is the subject, we want details. Where? How? What density? How affordable?

We don't want to hear, "We must solve our garbage problems." We want to know how, what is the candidate's plan of action. We look for concrete proposals, not campaign rhetoric. If a candidate has no proposals, we'll report that.

Shortly before the election we will present our endorsements for the candidates we feel are the most qualified for the positions they seek. The endorsements are the result of a consensus on the part of the editorial board which is involved in the interview process, and the coverage of the campaigns. Consensus rules. But if an editorial board member feels

very strongly for a candidate not endorsed, an opposite point of view is presented. That has occurred on several occasions.

While we do not generally interview or endorse for the primary contests, we would like to offer some observations. The most important primary contest is between Acting County Executive Michael LoGrande and Comptroller Joseph Caputo. This contest has been long in coming. Caputo's quest for power started a number of years ago, for the most part simmering beneath the surface because he could garner little support. His long standing allegiance to LILCO and the Shoreham nuclear power plant could be disastrous for the people of Long Island. Caputo now says he is opposed to the plant because the people oppose Shoreham. We have no doubts, however, that a Caputo victory would have them dancing in the aisles at the top offices of LILCO. And we have no doubts that at the very first opportunity Caputo would be back in the corner of LILCO, doing everything he can to help put the plant on line, regardless of the safety consequences to the people.

The kind of leadership Caputo would bring to the county executive's office is not an unknown factor. One need only look back to the days when Caputo was the presiding officer of the county legislature. That reign can be described in one word: chaotic. Little was accomplished. Just a lot of chaos.

In his efforts to gain support in his current primary contest, Caputo has vowed to all Republican committeemen that he would take care of them should he be elected. Suffolk government is already filled to the rafters with patronage appointments. Caputo's election would turn

that into a political cesspool. Suffolk County and its people deserve better.

One other primary contest deserves mention. Family Court Judge Denis Hurley, the Republican candidate for County Court judge, is involved in a primary contest for the Conservative spot on the ballot. Winning that nomination could be very important in the November election.

Hurley, you will remember, was a member of the Suffolk County Legislature, and, in fact, the sponsor of the first resolution to abolish the legislature and return to the Board of Supervisors form of government. Hurley sponsored that legislation at the request of the people, because he felt very strongly the people should have a say in their own destiny. That effort was not a political move, but one that followed a careful study of all the ramifications of the issue. While the resolution failed, Hurley

earned widespread respect.

Hurley has been a Family Court judge since January of 1983, and has served with great distinction. In fact, many of the decisions he has written have been published in law journals, a mark of respect in the legal and judicial world. He is currently an acting Supreme Court judge.

Hurley has earned the respect of everyone that has come into contact with him. In our view, he is destined for high places in the judicial world, and a win in the Conservative primary could help ensure the start of that journey.

However you vote, please vote. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Constitution, let's really put "We the people..." back into our democracy.

And why not?

Legislators or Lawbreakers?

Residents of Suffolk County went to the polls back in 1983 and approved, by an overwhelming margin, a referendum which limits increases in county budgets to 4 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is greater. The referendum was placed on the ballot via an unanimous vote by Suffolk County legislators.

Here we are four years later, and that cap has been pierced by a whopping \$33,000,000. Supreme Court Judge William Underwood Jr., in a ruling released last week, said the county's \$1.16 billion operating budget violated the 4 percent cap on spending increases, and directed county officials to cut \$33 million from the budget or get legislative approval for the overspending. The cap law includes an escape clause which stipulates an affirmative vote by 14 legislators is required to legalize overspending above the cap.

Judge Underwood's ruling confirms what has been known all along: Suffolk County legislators, and then County Executive Peter F. Cohalan, ignored the law which limited their spending habits. The fact the county budget increase exceeded the 4 percent cap was well known by our legislators. They, in fact, had approved a resolution directing Cohalan to cut his budget by \$33 million. He vetoed that proposal, declaring it was not possible to do so without massive layoffs of county employees. When the legislature met to act on a possible veto override, a large crowd of angry county employees was on hand to pressure legislators against voting for the

override, fearful for their jobs. The legislators bowed to the pressure. The override failed. But now the judge has ordered the county to do what they should have done initially.

What to do? That question has county officials and legislators caught in a dilemma. Fourteen legislators can combine forces and approve the overspending. That would make the overspending legal. Not right, mind you, but legal. The problem, though, is those 14 legislators must face the voters this November with that action haunting them. And haunt them it should. There were, and still are, many areas the legislators could have cut. It would have been far easier in the beginning of the year, because the cost reductions would have been spread out over the entire year. Now, with about three-quarters of the year gone, the \$33 million in cuts ordered by the judge will be far more difficult to accomplish over the last four months of the budget period.

Interestingly, one of the items included in the 1987 budget was a \$25 million "tax stabilization" fund which, according to its sponsor, was to ensure the county would not be negatively impacted if LILCO refused to pay taxes on Shoreham, as the utility once had. That \$25 million, plus another \$8 million from cuts ordered by acting County Executive Michael LoGrande, would meet the \$33 million over-expenditure, according to some. But other county officials counter that isn't so. One

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Legislators or Lawbreakers?

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says that money can't be used because it is a reserve fund and not an actual expenditure. Another claims it is 1985 money, not 1987 money. Confusion reigns. We said editorially at the outset, the "tax stabilization" fund appeared to be little more than a budgeted "surplus" to provide a tax cut just before the election. We have no reason to change our mind, especially with the assorted answers we have been getting on using those funds against the over-expenditure.

LoGrande, some reports indicate, wants those who initiated the legal action which resulted in Judge Underwood's decision—Legislators Steve Levy, Tony Bullock, Greg Blass and Jane Devine—to agree to a \$14 million settlement. If that scenario takes place, 14 legislators would have to approve the \$19 million

over-expenditure left. More interesting, though, is the fact that next year's 4 percent cap would be based on a final budget only \$14 million lower, rather than \$33 million. Which permits a higher budget next year.

The facts are clear. The voters approved a 4 percent cap, and that cap was exceeded. Our legislators have violated the law by approving this over-expenditure. They might be able to legalize that violation by approving the excess spending with 14 votes. But they have violated the trust of the taxpayers.

Are our legislators legislators? Or lawbreakers? That answer will come in how they resolve this problem. Their futures should hang in the balance.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

"Two-party system is the key"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

A little over two hundred years ago forefathers fought and won the revolutionary war against England and its one-party rule. Why? Because America wanted to be the land of the free, and no longer to be ruled by King George III.

Today we're celebrating the anniversary of the Constitution of the United States. Now two hundred years later, the republican party of Suffolk County would like to take away from us those precious first three words of the constitution: "We The People" by trying to torpedo the Suffolk County Legislature. Thereby showing they don't care for the people. Instead they wish to replace our legislature with a Republican-controlled board of supervisors. (Are we to become another Russia?) This could lead to paying a heavy price for their intransigent and costly opposition to our legislature. One in which has fought and still continues to fight to keep Shoreham from opening, thereby keeping the Long Island Lighting Company from raising our electric rates over thirty-seven percent. Let's support our county legislature which has been doing a great job, and let's show them we care.

We mustn't become another Nassau County with its one-party system where "mums the word" for the Democratic party. If we were to allow this to happen here in Suffolk County, it would allow this to blow the Democrats right out of the political picture. We must see that this doesn't happen. As it now stands, our supervisors don't have the time or energy to keep their own towns in order, especially in Islip with its housing and garbage problems.

If we were to let the Republican Party make

this change, it would be a giant step backwards because of its high risk. As of now, those who live in Islip are living in a giant pressure cooker on a flame being fueled by Anthony Pace and Micheal Blake, who seem to forget that Suffolk County is still a part of America. Is it right for them to have this kind of power especially in Islip???

The people of Islip have to fight the forces of evil who are trying to do away with the two-party system. A two-party system is the key to a healthy democracy. This is our chance to get rid of prestige based upon power. We must do battle if we want freedom from the one party system. We have to guard our inalienable rights. We must see the light of day because when power is continually concentrated in the hands of a few, then our future is in trouble. When the engine is not running well, it's up to us to change the spark plugs.

We can't sit back and moan our fate without doing anything about it. We have to shape our own destiny, which will be in the formula for success. We cannot live in the past and hope God will bless us in the future. We need a complete change in Islip and Suffolk County as the people instinctively hate what is being done to them with our present system. We should raise questions about what direct role political leaders should play in the decisions on the filling of unexpired terms of office. As compared to what happened in Suffolk County and Islip, if this trend is not stopped in its tracks, then we all become losers, and Suffolk County may as well be referred to as "Suffer County."

Alvin Shapiro
United Seniors of NYS
Central Islip

"It is time for action in Huntington"

Dear Editor:

Over two decades of study and inertia, a gaggle of committees and still no action on the Huntington Railroad Station Urban Renewal site.

As a former assistant commissioner of the N.Y.S. Division of Housing and Community Renewal for a period of over 12 years, I've had enough experience to write at least one book about the Huntingtons of the state in their procrastination and foot-dragging on urban

renewal.

When ambivalent politicians either can't or won't make up their minds, they appoint a study committee and after much discussion, a report is written and filed. Nothing really changes and the politicians have safely ridden through another crisis; but then the community has been short-changed again.

It is long overdue for someone to bite the bullet and say, "Yes, we are going to do this and so," and then proceed to do it.

I firmly believe that Huntington citizens want the station area upgraded and it is time for some action.

For what it is worth, I believe that the greatest good for the greatest number may be accomplished by putting the site up for auction to the highest bidder who will agree to develop the site for market priced multi-family housing, be it co-op, condo or rental. Terms of the auction can lay down the constraints under which the successful bidder must perform, i.e. density, height, parking, landscaping and all the criteria necessary to the development - marketing and community concerns for a quality place to live.

Urban renewal regulations long ago recognized the rights of former site residents to priority to any new housing and so it should be. As a further priority we might want to consider our senior citizens and young families coming from Huntington. Only after these considerations should outsiders be considered. The trickle effect in this should open up some other housing in the community and hopefully reduce some of the back-log.

Sincerely,
William F. Meyers
Huntington

"Home Unit Treatment Districts" will work

Dear Editor:

A major first step in the preservation of the groundwater supply of Southold Town and Shelter Island remains little more than a paper proposal gathering dust on the shelf. That step is the establishment of Home Unit Treatment Districts (HUTD). This entails a water district that would depend on private wells rather than water mains. HUTD's would collect a district tax from homeowners who would be served in return with proper filter units on their wells, with regular sampling and testing of their water supply, and with replenishment and proper disposal of spent filter cartridges. An essential advantage of HUTD's is the awareness that will result as far as contamination trends are concerned. Sources of pollution will be traced more diligently. District users will have the option to seek reimbursement from polluters, and will have a better understanding of what is confronting their water supply and how to deal with it. Those opposed to unwise development plans will have a stronger sense, and unity, of purpose. The HUTD is, for many reasons, the

right thing to do.

The concept emerged with the North Fork Water Management Plan, a project which I sponsored in a skeptical County Legislature more than five years ago. The North Fork Plan recognized the unique quality/quantity problems suffered by Southold Town, and acknowledged the difficulty in setting up public water mains in the town's growing communities.

The idea of well water districts, according to this very worthy plan that has been set forth at considerable expense to all the county's taxpayers, offers an alternative that is as viable as it is necessary. To make this concept a reality should rise as a priority for all of us in government and the private sector. The time to move is now. If legal questions emerge as obstacles, they should be dealt with actively and with all deliberate speed. To wait any longer would be contrary to the public interest.

Sincerely,
Gregory J. Blass
Presiding Officer
Suffolk County Legislature

"We need more than chemicals"

Dear Editor:

If an automobile needs gas, oil, water and other "nutrients" to make it run properly and there is no substitute or alternative such as water in the gas tank or chemical of some sort in the gas tank, why is it so difficult to understand that the human body needs its nutrients and will not be satisfied with chemicals to run properly.

The plants and trees and lawns all require their own "nutrients" such as water and fertilizer (each plant requires their own fertilizer). Look at what chemicals do to a lawn or garden.

Human beings need their fuel also in nutrition and vitamins and foods - NOT processed as in cheese nor flavored product as again in cheese nor the empty calories as in Twinkies, Jello, pretzels, M & M's et cetera nor the preservatives added to most foods as in cereals, frozen foods, boxed foods, all added for shelf life but do nothing for human life.

Have you ever picked a tomato, cucumber or string bean? How then can one say fresh produce department in a supermarket? Is there no difference?

Then add what the human inhales from cigarettes, exhaust et cetera. Then add the damage done from medications prescribed by

doctors not to speak of the effects of over-the-counter drugs as indicated in the Physician's Desk Register in side effects to the body; added to the many people trying to diet and eating poorly and skipping meals. Add to all this the loss of vitamins between the picking of fresh vegetables and the sale of same in the supermarkets and it is not a wonder that so many Americans are suffering malnutrition which causes a wide variety of disease and illness.

Million of dollars are spent to find a cure for cancer - the cure is so simple. It is preventative. Quit adding chemicals to our meat and "fresh" produce which cause illness in humans. Quit adding preservatives to so much of our foods and, instead of "cheese product" or "cheese flavor" use the "real" thing. Clean up our supermarkets and food therein.

The chemicals and detergents and disinfectants and bug sprays are ruining our water so far down as our aquifers. All over the country people can no longer dig a well for "fresh" drinkable water. Chlorine is not doing my body any good in the water I drink when it registers "unsafe to swim in" on a pool test kit.

Barbara Swayze
Brentwood

"We'll salute you"

Dear Editor:

250,000 telegrams. My how impressive that sounds! That is until we check with the Census Bureau, then we see what a minute portion of Americans that really is. And now I have a proposal Being a Vietnam vet myself, I do have a concern for the MIAs, assuredly they exist, and I'm willing to pay airfare to Bangkok for an American "Hero," plus a set of tires thrown in for someone as familiar with Vietnam as me. Let's let Ollie be an American hero; obviously he has access to all the weapons he needs and can get millions of dollars from congress "legally" for the contras. Then we'll salute you, Ollie.

Russ Elderbaum
Farmingville

are feeling and if everything is okay. It is greatly appreciated, more so by the ones who live alone. God bless each one of you and I, personally want you all to know that I am most grateful for these daily morning phone calls to me - it makes my day brighter and happier to know that someone really cares about me.

Sonia Homanock
Mastic Beach

"Sincere thanks"

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing the article and pictures advertising our Tin Lizzy Daze Fair held July 25.

Your effort and participation added greatly to the success of our fair.

Thank you!
Sincerely,
Barbara Antos
Bellport United
Methodist Church

"Great volunteers"

Dear Editor:

I wish to publicly acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who handled the "Help Line" phone calls. These dedicated people make phone calls daily to homebound seniors and others with serious health problems.

It is a blessing to get a phone call every day and to hear a pleasant voice asking how you

"Elephant man"

Dear Suffolk Life

Thank you for the circus tickets. I took my father and we liked it, especially the elephants.

Melissa Rice
Coram

What A Wonderful Document

This week we mark the 200th Anniversary of the Constitution of the United States.

As a typical American you are probably saying, "so what." The one sour note or outcome of the document is apathy. We as United States citizens of this generation, take for granted all the rights, privileges and responsibilities so clearly spelled out in this wonderful piece of paper. Because we live under freedom, we take it for granted. We in the newspaper business don't.

We know of our colleagues in countries whose borders are not far from ours who are not free to think, to write and to express their opinion. The newspapers they work for are not newspapers in the sense that we know them here in the United States. They are controlled propaganda sheets of the dictator and ruler. The reporters and editors are told what to write, how to write it and what to keep out of the paper at all costs. As a result, the citizens of the country are kept under-educated and uninformed. Even hard news is controlled. More often than not, residents of these countries learn of mishaps, government blundering, massacres and murders through word of mouth and the underground rather than through the press.

Freedom of the press is only one of the freedoms guaranteed to us by the Constitution of the United States. The church we choose to worship in is of our own free volition. To work, not to work, to work in our chosen field, is our own choice. Where we live and where we move is at our sole discretion. To have, to hold and to own property is a freedom we take so for granted, yet is so restricted in many countries. No, not your undeveloped countries, but even your Anglo-Saxon ones such as Ireland.

We well remember a speaker at a national publishers conference who

was extolling the virtues of America. He was a young Irishman who said, "you take so for granted the things you have here. In my country, as an Irish Catholic, I am not allowed to own property." He went on to say that he and his many brethren had only one inalienable right, they were born for export.

There are many things wrong with our country, but the Constitution gives a blueprint for changing them. The Constitution was based upon the mentality of the late 1700's in this country; everyone appreciated the freedoms our new country gave them: the interest in our government and the determination to stay involved so that our children's children would always remain free.

Never having gone without a meal or meals, few know what hunger is. Having rarely ever been denied our rights without redress, few of us truly appreciate the wealth of freedoms we have as American citizens whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Needless to say, none of us personally knew the framers of the Constitution, only what our history books have told us of them. Although many were not formally educated, and they came from all walks of life, one thing is for certain, they were brilliant statesmen. They knew what to compromise on, and what not to. They had first-hand knowledge of oppression and were determined that they would build a form of government that would eliminate oppression forevermore. They authored a document, a set of rules, which has withstood the test to time.

Hopefully, our Constitution will remain intact as testimony to men who know and appreciate freedom, and who will preserve it forevermore.

And why not?

You Broke It, Now Fix It

The Suffolk County Legislature and former County Executive Peter Cohalan approved it, the voters reaffirmed it, Suffolk County's budget could not exceed four percent of the budget of the previous year. Expenditures above this amount should be of supreme importance, and require approval by 14 members of the County Legislature. The passage of the Suffolk County Tax Cap is law.

Peter Cohalan, in his waning days, aided and abetted by the Suffolk County Legislature, pierced this cap. The Legislature gave in to the special interest groups, adding pro-

ject after project, increase after increase, and the result is that the County of Suffolk has exceeded the four percent spending cap by almost \$33 million.

It would be prudent, therefore, for Acting County Executive Michael LoGrande and the County Legislature to follow the dictates of the law, and eliminate \$33 million, bringing the budget into line with the cap. But, unfortunately, that's not what is going to happen.

The Suffolk County Legislature last Friday spent about five hours to devise a scheme in which they could

eliminate \$23 million, but approved, with the necessary 14 votes, excessive spending in the amount of \$10 million. They earmarked budget cuts from various departments, demanded by LoGrande when he first entered office, and shifted funds from various accounts to come up with the \$23 million. And then the 14 legislators voted to break faith with the voters by approving the \$10 million in excess spending.

Since they were, in large part, responsible for the expenditures which pierced the budget cap, they could have—and should have—bitten the bullet and eliminated the entire \$33 million, which should never have been put into the budget to begin with. Here's how:

A total freeze on all non-contractual expenditures must be ordered. No new positions should be filled until the budget is under control. A possibility of a cut in the work week of county employees, or temporary layoffs, should be considered. Harsh measures are man-

dated by reckless spending in the past. Not popular, especially in an election year, but the law is the law. The former county executive and the legislature willfully broke it, and now must pay the penalty.

It's easy to say 'yes' to spending money, as long as it is not your own. The taxpayers of Suffolk County voted to place a cap on what they are willing to contribute. Those that run the county government have to learn to live with it, or get out of government and give others the opportunity to live within the means of the county residents.

Those who voted to pierce the budget cap approved by the voters must face those same voters in November. If the taxpayers are serious about the need to cap the county budget to control the spending habits of our public officials, they can deliver a strong message by turning their backs on those 14 legislators who ignored the voters' "cap the budget" edict.

And why not?

Serving Public or Self

Suffolk County Legislators have successfully perpetuated their positions during the past several years by effectively preventing voters from having a vote on whether the legislature should be abolished. Since we will, therefore, be stuck with this legislative body until such a referendum is scheduled, the very least our legislators should do for the public is to get their act in order.

The legislature has long been known as a "Funny Farm," and not much has changed to modify that condition. Individually, and off the record, legislators themselves will scoff at the actions of their fellow office holders. Collectively they stand together, defending their legislative body. How efficiently does this group of politicians operate? Read on:

The most recent legislative meeting, held September 8, is a prime example of government at its worst. The meeting started at 9:30 a.m., recessed for a bit over an hour for lunch, recessed again for dinner, and then the marathon session was recessed again at 12:45 a.m. on September 9. At this writing, the legislature was to continue the meeting last Friday afternoon.

Why such an extremely long meeting—which can only lead to an unproductive, unproductive legislative body? Well, either by design, or extremely poor planning, there were 13 public hearings scheduled for that day, all during the legislature's meeting. And the hearings included some controversial subjects which were surely destined to bring out a crowd.

Cont. on page 4

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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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.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

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Cont. from page 3

Where is the legislative leadership? Why would a leader permit that many public hearings to be scheduled on the same day, especially knowing full well the amount of reaction the proposed laws would draw? Could the legislative leadership be so removed from common sense and reality that it would purposely schedule that many hearings during one legislative meeting? Or was it purposely done to exhaust the patience of those wishing to speak? To deliberately "wear 'em down"?

A case in point: one of the public hearings dealt with a proposal to ban the use of certain plastic products in the county. This ban would impact plastic coated containers, such as those sold for coffee, styrofoam items, and other plastic containers that are utilized for a host of uses. It was well known that representatives of the plastic industry, and from retail stores, both large and small, would be on hand to voice their concerns. That public hearing did not start until shortly before midnight. How many people with legitimate concerns went home in disgust, without having an opportunity to voice their views?

There is a better way: why can't the legislature hold meetings to deal with routine governmental matters at their usual time, and schedule public hearings dealing with new laws and other important matters for another time, preferably a night meeting, so more citizens have an opportunity to participate in their government? Another public hearing last week had to do with a new law dealing with contractors. Why should the contractors have to lose a day's work to voice their concerns? Why not a day meeting on Tuesday for normal matters, and a Wednesday or Thursday night meeting for public hearings? And why not sched-

ule a reasonable number of meetings on any one day, to eliminate the marathon sessions?

Another thing: public hearings are held to permit public input. The views expressed are suppose to be important to the legislators in their decision-making process. That being the case, it's time the legislators stop wandering off while the public is speaking. It is not unusual to have nine, ten or more empty chairs facing the speakers, while the legislators are off in the back rooms having coffee or chatting. What is being said at the meeting could have an important impact on the proposed law. The legislators should be there to listen. Just as members of a jury must be present to hear evidence being given. Legislators should also leave their political speeches for the campaign trail and press releases, and not waste valuable time during legislative meetings or public hearings.

Politicians being what they are, it is hardly likely we will ever see the end of legislative proposals designed to do little more than garner votes. But the public certainly has a right to demand some more respect than it is now being given. No one drafted the legislators to sit in their legislative chairs. Each and every one sitting up there has gone to the public vowing to "serve the public." It's time that they start by arranging the kind of schedule that would serve the public rather than the legislators, by choosing leadership that will ensure efficient government, and putting an end to the circus atmosphere of the past...and present.

When the legislators seek your vote, deliver this message: "Start serving the public, or get out of the way and make room for someone who will."

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

"Joe Janoski's love of Riverhead Town"

Dear Editor:

There seems to be a persistent, and obviously political, rumor concerning Supervisor Janoski and my offer of a position in county government to him earlier this year. The rumor states that Janoski has a job offer with the county, and he is not really concerned with the position of supervisor in Riverhead. I want to make it clear right now to all those who have been hearing these rumors that, when Supervisor Janoski turned down the position with the County of Suffolk, his reason for doing so was clear - he wanted to continue to serve the people of the Town of Riverhead. He felt that his obligation to the people of Riverhead was far more important than seeking a position with the county. He also said that he considered the position of Supervisor of Riverhead Town to be one of great responsibility and challenge, that he loves the work and the people.

I have known Joe Janoski since 1979 when we were both running for our first term in the position of supervisor; he in Riverhead and I in Islip Town. We both recognized that the challenge, the personal satisfaction of shaping a town, and responding to the peoples' needs in the areas of health, safety and welfare, have no equal in any other public position. I happen to personally know that Joe Janoski's love of Riverhead Town, when he represented that town on the Association of Suffolk County Supervisors, was very great. While he is quiet spoken and unassuming, he was always eager to adopt measures that would benefit Riverhead Town and the people he served.

He once told me that it is important that the county seat of Suffolk, which is really Riverhead, remain that way. At his urging and suggestion I have been conducting business as the county executive in Riverhead on a

weekly basis. I intend to spend more time at the Riverhead County Center than did any of my predecessors.

I think that, for the sake of the record, the rumor should be dispelled now. I have seen Joe Janoski as Chairman of the County Supervisors' Association, and he is very, very serious

and eager to keep his position in leading the great Town of Riverhead. I believe your readers should know and understand that.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Michael A. LoGrande
Suffolk County Executive

"The fight against AIDS fraud"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am writing to you as a formal request to establish a cooperative effort in the fight against AIDS fraud in New York State. Here at the New York State Consumer Protection Board, we have been the unfortunate recipients of numerous fraudulent products suggesting they offer a "miracle cure" or "preventative" for the AIDS virus. As a result, the board has made AIDS fraud one of its priorities and now requests your assistance in order to more effectively monitor the marketplace.

Please be assured that it is not our intention to discourage legitimate innovation or alternatives in the care of AIDS patients. It is, however, unfortunately true that real fraud and deception is taking place.

For example, over the past several months, the board has investigated numerous advertisements, products and services promoting AIDS cures or treatments. In fact, the board assisted the attorney general's office in stopping the USHA Herbal Research Institute from operating. The USHA Institute, operated by Alfredo Bowman, was disseminating unapproved products owned by Mr.

Bowman's wife and claimed they would cure people of AIDS. In another instance, the attorney general assisted the board in eliminating a product from the marketplace before even one had sold. Specifically, the manufacturer of "Sani-Fone" claimed that their protective strips would prevent a person from getting AIDS by merely placing the product on their telephone.

I'm writing now to request that you forward any information, advertisements and/or documentation regarding any product manufacturer or business which you believe may be inappropriately marketing a "miracle cure" "preventive" for AIDS. Contact Jeffrey Weinstock, the board's director of public information, at (518) 474-1471, if you have any questions, comments and/or suggestions.

Thank you. If there is any way I can be of assistance in this area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Virginia M. Apuzzo
Deputy Executive Director
Consumer Protection Board

"New York City and Albany, you can keep this politician"

An Open Letter to:
Assemblyman Patrick Halpin

As a representative of local government, I was appalled over statements made by Assemblyman Patrick Halpin regarding Suffolk County's most recent program to protect our drinking water and other environmental resources.

I agree with many other local officials and Suffolk residents -- including members of the assemblyman's own political party -- that Mr. Halpin's remarks were totally off base and represent a weak attempt to politicize an extremely important local program.

For starters, I don't agree with the assemblyman's position that local revenue sharing should be cut out of the county's environmental protection package. He said he doesn't trust Suffolk's municipalities in handling this money and that local monies should be allocated through Albany.

Quite frankly, I couldn't think of a worse group to spend our money than Pat Halpin and his New York City Democratic friends who control the State Assembly. These are the politicians who continue to siphon off a quarter percent of Suffolk's sales tax to pay for New York City's subways. These are the people who reroute millions of dollars in motor vehicle-related fees and taxes out of our region each year. And these are the ones responsible for the failure of the \$1.5 billion "Rebuild New York" bond program to solve Long Island's ever-worsening traffic problems.

Worse yet, Pat Halpin would like to entrust our hard-earned money to the same politicians who rejected our requests to establish a local land preservation bank to protect environmentally sensitive lands.

I also take great exception to the assemblyman's criticism that Suffolk's environmental package is flawed because it does not address the issue of toxic waste cleanup. Must local residents pay for everything?

What the assemblyman seems to forget is the fact that a major portion of the \$1.45 billion State Environmental Quality Bond Act (which Suffolk residents support through state taxes) is dedicated for toxic waste cleanup. What he won't mention is how the state is dragging its feet -- despite repeated requests from local municipalities -- in classifying hazardous waste sites in order to make them eligible for this money. And he won't say why the state -- despite repeated requests -- has not yet spent all of the money from an environmental bond program approved in the early 1970's.

It is clear from Pat Halpin's comments and actions as an assemblyman that he would like local government to shoulder the entire cost of

environmental protection programs and that he intends to continue his support for schemes that funnel our money to other parts of the state.

New York City and Albany, you can keep this politician.

Sincerely,
Eugene Gerrard
Brookhaven Town
Councilman

"I hope something can be done about it"

To the Editor:

This is a copy of a letter I mailed to MacArthur Airport on August 17. I hope something can be done about it.

While visiting L.I. MacArthur Airport last Saturday, I was dismayed to see a faded, torn and tattered American flag flying over the parking lot. To display our flag in such a manner is nothing short of a disgrace.

As a proud American, I feel that his dishonor to our flag should be remedied immediately. This flag should be taken down, destroyed, and replaced with a bright new one. If you cannot fly a decent flag, leave the flagpole empty.

Flying the present flag is only a show of carelessness and disrespect.

Very truly yours,
Dianne Rockmacher
Babylon

"Well-done"

Dear Mr. Willmott,

All of us at Carl & Bob's wish to thank you for taking the time and effort to write the article commemorating our 40th anniversary in business.

We have had a lot of favorable comments for the article. Well-done.

Thanks again,
Sincerely yours,
Carl Okun
Riverhead

Legislators Tell Public To Be Damned

In 1983, the Suffolk County Legislature passed a resolution, which later became law, that placed a 4 percent cap on the amount that the discretionary portion of county expenditures could be increased in any one year. Between 1983 and 1986, however, the county executive and the legislature found ways to circumvent this law, approving expenditures above the 4 percent limit.

In 1986, Legislator Joseph Rizzo (R-Islip), who had initially proposed the 4 percent spending cap, came back with another proposal patterned after the familiar Proposition 13 of California and the Proposition 2 1/2 of Massachusetts. This proposal put a 4 percent cap on the amount the county's tax rate could be increased in any one year. The proposal was passed by the legislature, signed by the county executive and put to the voters for ratification. The referendum passed by a 2 to 1 majority. The voters had spoken, unequivocally and decisively. The county executive and the legislature were not to increase spending more than 4 percent, and the tax rate was not to increase more than 4 percent in any given year.

Rizzo had insisted that both caps include an escape clause which stipulates 14 votes would be necessary to approve expenditures above the 4 percent limit. The inclusion of the escape clause was prudent, good common sense, to give legislators an ability to deal with unexpected, emergency expenses. It was intended only for emergency or catastrophic situations, not for legitimizing non-essential expenditures at the whim of the legislators. The intent of the escape clause was clearly known.

Last year, in the lame duck days of Peter Cohalan's existence as county

executive, in a move some have characterized as a vendetta, Cohalan submitted a budget to the legislature that pierced the cap. He told the legislature either they accepted it, or he would take a sharp knife to the budget and eliminate people-sensitive sections that would disrupt needed services while leaving intact the patronage and fat he wanted.

Under intense pressure from county employees who feared the loss of their jobs, and other special interest groups, the legislature voted to accept the budget, but not by 14 votes. Several legislators brought a law suit to force the legislature to comply with the law. Judge William Underwood agreed, ordering the legislators to either cut the spending so the budget was within the intent of the law, or approve the excessive spending with the required 14 votes.

After a feeble effort to reduce spending, not with cuts introduced by themselves but with reductions achieved earlier this year by acting County Executive Michael LoGrande and some shifting of money from one fund to another, 14 legislators voted to violate the cap by some \$10 million, breaking the intent of the law and, in our view, becoming lawbreakers. Their action to pierce the cap by \$10 million with the 14 votes may pass the legal test. But morally it stinks.

The 14 who violated the intent of the cap law have tried to explain their action by pleading lay-offs and cuts in services would have resulted. This is the same old tired bull that they have thrown at the voters time and time again. Some legislators had the audacity to say that the voters haven't complained, that the public had faith in the public officials to do the right thing.

We believe the voters spoke loud and clear by a 2 to 1 margin in a referendum when they voted to put the cap into effect. The voters had been told, and accepted the word of the legislators, that the cap would only be broken for emergency purposes. The voters did not give the legislators permission to break the cap at will. But apparently the 14 legislators who voted to do so have no fear of you. They apparently think you will continue to vote for them because they are nice guys and gals.

We consider these legislators outright lawbreakers who don't give a damn for the public, what the public wants, or what they will put up with.

We seriously recommend you contact your legislator personally by phone, by letter or by postcard. The taxpayers should let the legislators know they let you down, they have broken your trust. Let them know you do not want spending or the tax rate to be increased by more than 4 percent in any given year. That if they can't live within this guideline, you will vote for someone else who can and will.

It's do or die! The legislature has thrown down the gauntlet to the taxpayers. By their actions they have said: "We don't believe you are serious. We know better what is good for you than you know yourself. Therefore we will pay no attention to the limitations you have placed upon us. We are going to continue to spend more money than you have ap-

proved, and when we get finished with our shell games you will pay for it."

Time is of the essence. You must contact the legislators immediately as they will be voting soon upon one of two budgets submitted by LoGrande for 1988. Both budgets can realistically and sanely be cut substantially.

One of LoGrande's budget proposals again pierces the cap, the other stays within the cap but calls for cutting back on or excluding new services that may or may not be needed. Unless your legislators hear from you, they will take the easy way out, giving something to everyone and leaving you to pay for it.

The names of the legislators, their addresses and their telephone numbers are printed below. If you do not know who your legislator is, call any one of them, give that legislator hell and you will quickly be informed that you have the wrong legislator.

The two legislators who did not vote to pierce the cap are Joseph Rizzo and Michael O'Donohoe. Tony Bullock and Lou Howard were absent from the vote, so we do not know where they stand. Contact them as well.

You don't have the opportunity to vote on the budget, but you do have the right to vote for those who do. Let the legislators know they can't take your vote for granted. That you do care how they spend your hard earned tax dollars.

And why not?

Budget Cap's Author Clarifies Law's Intent

Suffolk County Legislators who voted to pierce the Suffolk County Budget Cap Law last week used the 14 vote escape clause as justification for their actions, indicating the clause was included in the law approved by voters and thus the voters had given them permission to exceed the cap for whatever expenditures 14 legislators felt were necessary. The author of the budget cap proposals, County Legislator Joseph Rizzo (R-Islip), told Suffolk Life the intent of the law was clear to all, that the 14 vote mechanism would be used only for emergency expenditures. We asked Legislator Rizzo to provide us with a written report of the history of the law's development, passage and intent. That report follows:

In April of 1983, the cumulative frustration of watching program after program come before the County Legislature, either from individual legislators or from the County Executive, and receive virtually automatic approval without any consideration to the impact on the taxpayers of Suffolk County, led me to devise what has now come to be known as the 'Four Percent Budget Cap'. As originally proposed by me, this cap would have applied to all county operating expenses, be they mandatory or

discretionary. That proposal was struck down as being too harsh and resulted in an alternative four percent budget cap, sponsored by my colleague Legislator Michael D'Andre, which applied the four percent limitation to operating expenditures for the discretionary portion of the County Budget.

As indicated in the Legislative Intent of that legislation, it was my intent to impose an ironclad, across-the-board automatic ceiling on the rate of increase in the expenditure of such funds because I recognized how difficult it was for elected officials to assess the fiscal impact of budgetary appropriations when each program, item, or expenditure is viewed in isolation from the over-all budget. The four percent limitation was specifically intended to create reasonable parameters within which County government could live.

I felt it was eminently reasonable to allow expenditures to grow by either four percent or the growth of the GNP price deflator, the most accurate measure of inflation available, whichever is greater. This means that, in times of high inflation, discretionary operating expenditures could increase by the rate of inflation. A

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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.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

God May Return

Millions of Americans have been upset since the liberal Supreme Court, created under Roosevelt and Democratic presidents, announced that God could no longer be present in the United States public schools.

The Supreme Court ruled that under its interpretation of the Constitution, there must be a separation between church and state, and therefore the offering of the morning prayer, whether by word or by silence, was unconstitutional.

This ruling and many other liberal interpretations of the Constitution incensed millions of Americans. They were sickened to find that the court gave criminals more rights than the victims. Our police were hamstrung in doing their jobs. Year after year, the liberal Supreme Court would take teachings and beliefs, reinterpret them in their wisdom, and we would have to accept it because they were the interpretations of the Supreme Court of the United States, the highest court in the land.

When we asked, "how do you change the Supreme Court?" we were told, "you don't." The nominees, once approved, are there for life. There isn't a recall mechanism. Only upon the death or retirement of a member of the court can a president nominate someone else.

When Ronald Reagan first ran for president, and was a candidate for a successive term, in endorsing his candidacy we reminded the voters that in choosing a candidate for this

presidential election you might well be choosing the tenure of the Supreme Court for the next 20 to 30 years. A majority of the Supreme Court justices were at an age when retirement or death were strong possibilities.

President Reagan recently nominated Robert Bork as a Supreme Court jurist. Confirmation hearings are underway. The bleeding heart Democrats in the senate, which must confirm the president's nomination, are squealing like stuck pigs, as is the liberal, national media. Just the idea of having a nominee on the Supreme Court who might be a traditionalist, conservative in interpretation, is making their blood run cold. Bork, heaven forbid, might even be responsible, through his interpretation of the Constitution, for allowing God back into schools.

We believe part of the reason President Reagan received such a landslide victory was the fact that the voters were aware that he would probably have an opportunity to nominate Supreme Court justices during his tenure. They counted on Reagan nominating candidates of a more Conservative bent, similar to his own, who would be traditional in interpreting the Constitution rather than attempting to write their own.

This is happening, and we may end up with a peoples' Supreme Court rather than a Supreme Court of the fringes.

And why not?

Budget Cap's Author. . .

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same four percent limitation on said rate applies together with an inflation allowance measured by the GNP price deflator and a growth allowance taking into account increases in the full assessed valuation of taxable real property.

Although, as chief sponsor of this bill, I would have preferred to see the limitation applied across the board to all programs, concessions were made and compromises agreed to in order to ensure sufficient political support to contain growth in discretionary county spending which approximates 55 percent to 58 percent of the annual county operating budget.

Once again, I resorted to the 14 vote mechanism to allow this cap to be pierced if 14 legislators find the arguments advanced in favor of a particular program to be compelling and cogent. Since the provisions accommodate economic growth and an allowance for inflation, sufficient flexibility still exists for the county to meet the legitimate needs of its citizens. For example, if inflation as measured by the GNP price deflator increases by five percent and economic growth is six percent, then the amount of revenues any increase by 11 percent to be spent beyond mandated cost increases. It is at this point that the four percent limitation on the expenditure side of the budget equation kicks in to restrain expenditures of such tax revenue above four percent or the rate of inflation. This demonstrates conclusively how reasonable and prudent my proposals really are.

Some people question the need for an automatic mechanism restraining the size and growth of government. However, recent developments involving just two programs, i.e., the court facility and open space preservation, demonstrate how easy it is to add \$65 to \$130 to a homeowners annual tax bill for programs which begin as discretionary items and convert to mandatory expenditures under enabling state legislation. In the absence of overriding parameters, the county will be unable to resist every special interest group that pleads its case with great sincerity but without reference to the cumulative effect of all such pleadings. Since elected officials often fail to look at the total picture, I feel that we must create automatic mechanisms that force us to do that. Once we are forced to look at the totality of programs every time we vote, we are not hamstrung by the process; on the contrary we are able to better prioritize our needs and allocate our resources in a manner which is consistent with the affordability of such projects and the pocketbooks of our taxpayers.

Lastly, the four percent spending cap has already begun to work as evidenced by the votes on the 1986 County operating budget, i.e., the first budget affected by that 1983 law, and judging from the howls and screams of special interest groups and the trend toward wage moderation at the county level, albeit imperfect. Propositions four and 13 are working in California because budget constraint is combined with tax limitation respectively. Proposition

two-and-a-half is working miracles in Massachusetts, once the highest taxed state in the country, cutting the state's tax burden to 10 percent below the national average as outlined in a feature article in the Wall Street Journal on July 15, 1986. I have simply allowed the voters the opportunity to join their fellow citizens in California and Massachusetts to close the circle of constraint on government spending and taxing at the county level, by voting for fiscal and tax prudence and sanity.

I am not holding these proposals out as a panacea to all our local tax problems because I fully recognize and acknowledge

that the county's portion of a taxpayer's bill is only 19 percent of the total bill. Therefore, I have simultaneously called upon villages, towns, school districts, fire districts, special districts, and the state itself to follow my lead by emulating the bill at all levels of government so as to ensure the lowest total tax rates possible for all of the people.

By forcing the county to prioritize its manner of doing business so that precious resources are allocated in an efficient and orderly manner, the only thing which would be stopped is unbridled spending, and taxation by county government.

Suffolk County Legislators

First District--Gregory Blass (R), 11 West Second Street, Riverhead, N.Y. 11910. 727-7200.

Second District--Edward Romaine (R,C), 640 Montauk Highway, Mastic, N.Y. 11967. 399-0500.

Third District--John Foley (D), 31 Oak Street, Patchogue, N.Y. 11772. 475-5800.

Fourth District--Rose Caracappa (C,R), 248 Middle Country Road, Bldg. 1, Suite 3, Selden, N.Y. 11784. 732-2000.

Fifth District--Steve Englebright (D), 149 Main Street, East Setauket, N.Y. 11733. 689-8500.

Sixth District--Donald Blydenburgh (R), 50 Hillside Village Plaza, Smithtown, N.Y. 11787. 724-4888.

Seventh District--Michael D'Andre (R,C), 49 Landing Avenue, Smithtown, N.Y. 11787. 724-5705.

Eighth District--Steven Levy (D), 22-30 Railroad Avenue, Sayville, N.Y. 11782. 567-0460.

Ninth District--Joseph Rizzo (R,C), 32-50 Sunrise Highway, East Islip, N.Y. 11752. 581-3621.

Tenth District--Phil Nolan (D), 1040A Islip Avenue (Route 111), Brentwood, N.Y. 11717. 234-8550.

Eleventh District--Patrick Mahon (R,C), 4 Udall Road, West Islip. 661-1800.

Twelfth District--Sondra Bachety (D), 655 Deer Park Avenue, North Babylon, N.Y. 11703. 661-3425.

Thirteenth District--Gerard Glass (R,C), 101 North Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757. 226-1340.

Fourteenth District--Louis Howard (R,C), 86 Broadway, Amityville, N.Y. 11701. 691-4488.

Fifteenth District--Wayne Prospect (D), 1789 East Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, N.Y. 11743. 499-5886.

Sixteenth District--Tony Bullock (D), 425 County Road 39A, Suite 104, Southampton, N.Y. 11968. 287-1655.

Seventeenth District--Jane Devine (D), 256 Main Street, Huntington, N.Y. 11743. 673-9393.

Eighteenth District--Michael O'Donohoe (C,R), 124 Laurel Road, East Northport, N.Y. 11731. 754-8288.

Letters to the Editor

'Bike-A-Thon and Safety Rally'

Dear Mr. Grasso:

Jefferson School PTA will be repeating its highly successful Bike-A-Thon and Bicycle Safety Rally on Saturday, October 17 (rain date - October 24) from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the parking lot of Jefferson School, Oakwood Road, Huntington. This is a fund-raiser for our PTA, allowing us to provide many extra services to our students. It is also a wonderful opportunity for us to focus on the most important issue of bicycle safety in our community.

The Bicycle Safety Rally, an event which we have developed to help prepare our students to become responsible bicycle riders, will be conducted by our Boy Scout Troop, and consists of a bicycle maintenance check, knowledge of the rules of the road, and a safe riding course. Nathan Hale Post 1469, Veterans of Foreign Wars will be applying free reflector tape to participants' bicycles. PTA provides, to

all participants, a packet of materials about bicycle safety, bicycle routes and related information, and free refreshments. The Town of Huntington was so pleased with our efforts last year that the Supervisor presented us with a proclamation declaring Bike-A-Thon Day in Huntington.

Local elected officials stop by throughout the day's activities to show their support for this important safety issue. This year we plan to include other students in Huntington and our local Cub Scout Packs.

We know that you share in the interests of children and the concerns of parents, and cordially welcome you to come and see how we are addressing this important safety issue. Thank you for your kind help and support.

Sincerely,
Barbara Macchiaroli
Huntington Station

'Long tale of the Islip garbage barge'

Dear Mr. Grasso:

I am a resident of Brentwood for the past 18 years. I penned the following verse after following the long tale of the Islip garbage barge - written after word that the garbage will be ashes to be dumped in Islip. Then, after its writing - to hear 'Another Stand Still,' at any rate. Enclosed is a poem. Who knows, maybe when you receive this, the garbage will be ashes - I'll leave that up in smoke.

Best wishes,
Vicki Silvers
Brentwood

Ode to the Islip Barge

Recircle-Recycle
In God I trust--
the matter of garbage
shall turn to dust--

Ashes to ashes
That and this
A long drawn-out story
No one will miss -
Issues on Earth
are cheerfully planned
Tho the garbage floats -
and issues stand -
Yippee! Hooray!
Good news prevails
The garbage barge returns
Cast the sails!!!
Old stories resound
if you wait long enough
With a bit of anguish
A huff - a puff--
The picture is clear--
the story flashes--
What's here today
is tomorrow's ashes!!