

Scoutmasters Plan Meeting on Camp Sale

By Sam Washington

Several Nassau scoutmasters want to add political weight to their argument that a scout-owned camp in Wading River should not be sold to Suffolk County.

More than 200 scoutmasters from the 11 Nassau County scouting districts are to meet tomorrow night, and they have invited Reps. Norman F. Lent (R-Baldwin), John W. Wyder (R-Mineola), State Sen. Norman J. Levy (R-Wantagh), Assembly Minority Leader Perry Duryea (R-Montauk) and Nassau County Executive Caso to attend.

"We want to tell them some of the facts behind the Nassau scout council's plan to sell Camp Wauwepex," explained G. Robert Crockett, a campaign leader and scoutmaster of a troop in East Rockaway and Lynbrook. "We want to tell them that the council has refused to study any other alternatives to the sale, and that only half of them took part in the vote that made the sale plan part of council policy."

On Feb. 25, the council members voted 35 to 1 to sell the 430-acre camp to Suffolk County, and the Suffolk County Planning Commission then agreed unanimously to recommend the purchase of the property and its conversion to a public park. No price for the land was suggested by the planning commission, but a source said it could be worth as much as \$4,

000,000. The 65-member scout council has said that proceeds from the sale would be used to pay off more than \$1,000,000 in outstanding debts. Council spokesmen explained that the heavy debt load threatens the activities of the county's 250 troops serving more than 10,000 boys.

But the scoutmasters who opposed the sale have contended that the debts could be handled without selling Camp Wauwepex.

"The proposed sale of Camp Wauwepex would liquidate \$4,000,000 in capital assets, which is finan-

cially unnecessary to correct the \$1,000,000 debt accumulation," Crockett said. He gave five possible alternatives: sell Boy Scout property in Roslyn; sell part of Camp Wauwepex to private interests; sell a half-interest of Wauwepex to Suffolk County; sell part of an upstate camp; or sell all of Wauwepex to Suffolk, using part of the proceeds to buy other Long Island land.

The meeting is to be held at 8 PM in St. Raymond's Parochial School, 253 Atlantic Ave., East Rockaway.

37 Birds to Be Tested for Disease

Bay Shore—A federal task force has found 40 of the birds sold by a local shop where a parrot died Feb. 24 of highly contagious Newcastle disease.

Of the 40, one has died of the same disease, and two more are sick. The owners of all but one of the remaining 37 have agreed to sell their birds to the government, so they can be destroyed and tested for the disease. The last bird will be tested by slower methods. Most of the birds were in the metropolitan area, officials said.

The disease was pinpointed Thursday at Novak's Tropical Aviary Corp. on Sunrise Highway. Only 15 names of buyers since Jan. 1 could be furnished by the store's owner, but due to the publicity others who purchased birds there have contacted the task force.

At least five bird owners who purchased their pets at the store have not been contacted yet. Those who purchased birds at the store since Jan. 1 should call the federal investigators here at 661-9192 or 661-1852.