

**Fair criticism**

To the Editor:

I just read Jim Newman's letter to the editor complaining that he had been unfairly criticized in my Letter to the Editor because his statements were taken out of context. I would like to suggest that the statements were made on TV, and that the context is perfectly recorded. He was not asked about the costs of educating the children in federal housing but about the whole package of costs the town bears for all services rendered. His response to the question was completely inappropriate and, I will say, out of character for the man I thought I knew.

He does in fact serve on a committee as do I that is working on a resolution to some of our mutual problems. What is true to the man is that as selectman he has helped to further the very damaging thinking that an effort to resolve our mutual issues is in some way racist or divisive. This insistence by Mr. Newman that any questioning of an obviously dysfunctional status quo is negative — rather than an honest attempt to put old animosities and issues to bed — is the root cause of the current dissatisfaction of the town voters. It defies all accepted thinking on conflict resolution and can only lead to continued ill feeling.

John Walsh  
Aquinnah

