

Celeste; \$250,000 to the 1984 presidential campaign of John Glenn (out of a \$3 million bank loan Warner helped to arrange); thousands of dollars to the U.S. Senate campaigns of John Glenn and Howard Metzenbaum; tens of thousands of dollars to the Democratic State Committee under the chairmanship of James Ruvolo."

The impact of the NDPC campaign can perhaps best be measured by the level of hysteria it has created in even the normally placid, if not downright boring, demeanor of former astronaut, now senator, John Glenn. Glenn was asked by a reporter at a recent campaign appearance, how he views the challenge from Don Scott, who won the Democratic primary with 61% of the vote during his first bid for the 7th CD seat in 1984. "I don't take it lightly at all," Glenn responded. He then launched into a tirade against "the LaRouche camp," concluding, "In Illinois, nobody paid attention, and you see what happened. We have to oppose that, obviously. When anybody like that gets loose in this country, we have to be aware of them."

In Illinois, the voters gave a resounding "no" to the Democrats who ignored what LaRouche called "the forgotten majority." The Ohio primary, together with the concurrent North Carolina and Indiana primaries on May 6, will determine whether voters in a broad cross-section of the formerly industrialized heartland of the United States, concur.

North Carolina

Croom for Senate hits defense crisis

Milton Croom, candidate for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in North Carolina, is a political figure in the tradition of the Cincinnatus Society, the grouping of American military officers who had served their country during the Revolutionary War, and who then formed an association to keep alive the ideals for which they had fought. A 75-year-old retired naval commander, Croom is running in the May 6 primary for the seat being vacated by Sen. John East.

This report on Croom's campaign was prepared by *EIR* on the basis of telephone interviews with the Croom for Senate headquarters. While Croom is not a "LaRouche Democrat," he finds many points of agreement with Lyndon LaRouche, whom he hails as "a dedicated American working harder than anybody else to preserve the interests of the United States."

Croom decided to run for public office because of his growing concern at the threat to the national security—from the Soviet war buildup, from those in the West who advocate

appeasement of Moscow, and from those enemies from within the Western nations who are demanding the "decoupling" of the United States from its allies abroad. Croom is a former state commander of the American Legion and former state chairman of the Peace Through Strength group. In 1985, he led the Ad Hoc Commission to stop the appointment of "decoupler" Richard Burt as U.S. ambassador to West Germany.

In a statement released on March 20, jointly with H. Davis Wall, president of Charlotte's Local 7430 of the United Steelworkers of America, Croom called for a national mobilization of labor and industry, "to implement the kind of policies that allowed this nation to win World War II, under the leadership of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Most emphatically, this includes a crash program approach to the development of the Strategic Defense Initiative; a gearing up of steel production to make America once again self-sufficient in this critical area of national security; and a firm commitment on the part of the U.S. government not to allow the Soviets and their allies to decouple the U.S. from its Western European allies."

Croom, who has nine opponents in the Democratic primary, has also hit hard at the appeasement policies of liberal Democrats, like former governor Terry Sanford, his principal opponent. Sanford's original approach to the primary race was to keep a low profile, but under pressure of a barrage of radio advertisements and other statements from Croom, he has been forced to address the issues, and in particular to moderate his earlier attacks on the Strategic Defense Initiative. Croom's radio broadcasts have criticized Sanford for his support of the Gramm-Rudman legislation, which is leading to huge cuts in the defense budget. The Gramm-Rudman bill, Croom charged, "threatens to unilaterally disarm our nation" and "will require very serious cuts in our already inadequate defense program, to such an extent that the Soviets may see an opportunity to fulfill Khrushchev's promise to bury us with their enormous military machine."

As the campaign unfolded, the misguided role of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) in hemispheric affairs has become an issue. Croom issued a statement criticizing Helms for undermining the government of Panama, and supporting the political ambitions of Arnulfo Arias, the former President who was a Nazi activist during World War II. "The government in Panama, home of the Panama Canal and an ally of the U.S., is scheduled for destabilization by the forces that overthrew President Marcos in the Philippines," he charged. "This is of grave national security concern to me." He called upon Senator Helms to "reappraise his position in this situation."

Croom is filling the political vacuum left by Helms, who has dismayed many conservatives because of his growing involvement with such disreputable individuals as Arias and Israel's Ariel Sharon. Croom's campaign has restored dignity to the conservative movement in North Carolina, and served as a flagship for "citizen soldiers" nationally. This will have importance long after the current election campaign is over.