

## Spannaus campaign challenges Virginia's 'Bush Democrats'

Nancy Spannaus, the only Democratic candidate running for Virginia's U.S. Senate seat, officially filed her declaration of candidacy against Republican John Warner in Richmond on March 15, surrounded by the full Virginia press corps.

The campaign is a unique one in Virginia history. Spannaus, a member of the "LaRouche wing" of the Democratic Party, has been campaigning around the state for more than a year, yet the party leaders try to pretend she doesn't exist, and prevented her from speaking at a recent meeting of the party Central Committee in Richmond. Spannaus has panicked state chair Paul Goldman and other top party leaders, whom she labels "Bush Democrats" because they recently tried to cancel the elections, rewriting party rules to protect the GOP's Warner, by giving themselves the power to rig "No Candidate" as the official Democratic Party standard-bearer for Senate at the April 21-23 party caucuses.

"The Democratic Central Committee is upset about my challenging John Warner. That's because they agree with the slash-and-burn austerity program of the Bush administration!" Spannaus explained to Democrats in southern Virginia.

Spannaus gave a short statement to the press outside the Democratic Party headquarters, before entering to file. She explained that she was running in order to mobilize people around the LaRouche alternative to the depression, and elaborated the threat to the nation represented by the Bush Democrats trying to cancel the elections. The candidate, two aides, two political supporters, and more than nine reporters with two TV cameras, then marched into the Democratic Party's office, where her declaration and filing fee were duly received.

Spannaus's action, in officially submitting her intent to run and filing fee, will force the party to hold local and Congressional District level caucuses, leading to a state nominating convention. The only way the party leaders will be able to block her nomination then, is by recruiting "uncommitted" delegates or delegates pledged to "No Candidate." It makes the elections to the Supreme Soviet seem positively democratic.

### Warner waffles on key issues

"While I don't agree with Liz Taylor on much, I do think it is time to dump Warner," Spannaus said in a March 21 election speech to Democrats in Virginia's Loudoun County.

She pointed out that John Warner and George Bush have waffled on support for freedom struggles in China and Eastern Europe, and have ignored the onrushing threat of a financial collapse "worse than the 1930s."

Warner and Bush, she said, are "following the same policies that got us into this mess"—appeasing tyranny abroad and cutting cutting the budget at the expense of people here at home. Spannaus asked for delegate support in upcoming party caucuses.

Referring to her 10th District running mate Lyndon LaRouche, who has declared for Congress against Republican Frank Wolf, Spannaus says, "Sure, they're upset about my advocacy of LaRouche's program. That's because LaRouche has a viable economic recovery program that will boost our economy and living standards—a program they don't want you to hear about."

Nevertheless, speaking invitations to Spannaus from around the state are coming in a steady stream. Even grassroots Democrats who aren't familiar with her policies, or have heard "bad things about LaRouche," are angry with top bureaucrats' decision to concede reelection to Warner, and upset about Goldman's crude, heavy-handed tactics to shut out party discussion.

Spannaus spoke to Democratic chapters in Christianburg and Campbell County during the week of March 19. Her statements were covered on television in Roanoke and Danville, and in the Roanoke and Richmond newspapers. She will address a Democratic group in Norfolk on education policy.

She has also been meeting with local leaders of civil rights groups, labor unions, farmers, and other "forgotten Americans" who have been shut out step-by-step by nearly a decade of "uninterrupted economic prosperity" under Reagan-Bush. Recent layoffs at AT&T, Avtex, and the bitter Pittston coal miners' strike have made Virginia working people particularly unhappy with the "Bush Democrats'" decision to concede to Warner.

### Tradition of Kennedy and FDR

"LaRouche's program is in the tradition of John F. Kennedy's and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's growth programs based on great projects in infrastructure and space," Spannaus tells her audiences. "By rejecting these programs, it is the party bureaucrats who are declaring themselves non-Democrats."

If it weren't for the press covering her filing, Spannaus said at one point, the Virginia elections would have been canceled. The people in the Democratic and Republican parties who are trying to cancel the elections are acting as arrogantly as the governments against which the people of Eastern Europe have just made revolutions, she charged.

Spannaus points out that in the recent Democratic primaries in Texas, over 500,000 votes were cast for candidates supporting Lyndon LaRouche's policies.