
Interview: Nancy B. Spannaus

Democrats and All Americans Are Paying for Not Listening to LaRouche

Mrs. Spannaus is the Editor-in-Chief of the weekly newspaper of the LaRouche movement New Federalist, and candidate for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate in Virginia, where she would face Republican incumbent John Warner. She is also Executive Director of a multicandidate political action committee, FDR-PAC. In 1994, she mobilized the "Committee to Stop that Son of a Bush" against the campaign of Oliver North, and was credited with one of the very few defeats of a Republican, during that Gingrich "Conservative Revolution" sweep of Congress. She was interviewed by EIR Editor Paul Gallagher on April 5.

EIR: You're the best known of LaRouche Democrats who have run campaigns during the 1990s, and the organizer of their biggest state victory in that period—the 1994 defeat of Oliver North's Virginia Senate bid, whom you called a "son of a Bush." Now there is a real son-of-a-Bush, George W. Bush, in the White House. What's the state of Democratic leadership against him, in the party nationally?

Spannaus: The Democratic Party nationally is paying the price for having suppressed reality, and the wise words of LaRouche, during the course of the year 2000 election campaign. Having blown the race for the White House, and for real victories in the Congress, the party leadership refuses to admit its errors, and instead reaches out for "deals" with the Bush Administration.

To put it succinctly, there is *no* leadership being exerted by the Democratic Party, just reactions to Bush's idiocies. One looks in vain for an offensive against the murderous greed shown by Bush's energy cartel friends, who are destroying the nation with deregulation; the Democrats say *not a word*. Instead you have [Senate Minority Leader] Tom Daschle [D-S.D.] playing one up-manship games on taxes. It's disgusting.

EIR: Where does LaRouche's leadership now stand vis-à-

vis Al Gore and his allies in the party, the Democratic Leadership Council, and other self-described "centrists" who picked up Republican economic policies since 1996?

Spannaus: LaRouche is the only national Democratic leader who is providing direction to the party, on the crucial fights which are going to determine whether we go into a depression with fascist-style police-state measures, or whether we can return to a policy of economic growth and prosperity.

In response to a question at his Jan. 3, 2001 webcast, LaRouche issued the rallying cry to defeat Bush's Attorney General nominee John Ashcroft, in order to stop the threat of crisis-management dictatorship in its tracks. Over the next weeks, LaRouche's associates were in the lead of mobilizing thousands of Democrats, to the point where the threat of a filibuster, the only tactic that would have been effective in preventing Ashcroft's confirmation, became politically possible. LaRouche was the only national figure providing direction in this fight. The fact that sufficient Senators to win a filibuster ultimately voted against Ashcroft, testifies to LaRouche's effective leadership. It was only the cowardice of Daschle and other leading Democratic Senators which permitted the confirmation.

By that point, however, LaRouche, like a far-sighted general, had already launched a new battlefield, on the matter of energy deregulation. In a pamphlet issued in early February, LaRouche addressed the underlying policies which have led to the potentially disastrous California electricity crisis, and demanded a mobilization for *re-regulation* and a return to economic policies based on the principle of the General Welfare, a principle exemplified by the actions of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

This campaign for a return to General Welfare policies, which LaRouche's FDR-PAC had already begun in the months between the Democratic National Convention and the so-called election, has also gone into a total void, and provided the basis for debate and effective action in many Democratic party groups around the country. LaRouche's associates have been in touch with hundreds of legislators, some of whom are active in working to roll back measures for energy deregulation in their states. And although activity on the Federal level continues to be fairly weak, momentum is growing,

with regular lobbying sessions, and town meetings.

With the stock market collapse and the cascading flood of layoffs hitting the population, and the Bush Administration sticking stubbornly to the rights of its greedy energy cartel friends, like Enron, to loot as much money as they want, the energy issue is going to continue to explode. And LaRouche, the only man with a perspective for *solving* this problem, is the only Democrat to turn to.

EIR: You're directly involved in the national fight to mobilize Democrats to help stop the closing of Washington's public hospital, D.C. General Hospital. What makes this a matter of national principle?

Spannaus: The fight to prevent the closedown of D.C. General Hospital, the only public hospital in the nation's capital, and one with an excellent rating for high-quality service, is actually the front edge of the battle for the General Welfare right now. Because the D.C. General fight not only goes directly to the issue of opposing Nazi economic policies, but it also has begun to build a mass constituency, which promises to deliver a very damaging blow to the financial establishment in Washington, which is calling the shots on policy in the Congress, and nationally.

The principle is the commitment of government to put the welfare of the population above the interests of financiers and financial accounting. This principle is especially obvious on the issue of health care, because there has been such a devastating trend nationally to cut back on health care, in the interest of "fiscal responsibility." More than 800 hospitals have been closed in the recent decade, people are uninsured, and more and more people are denied service. So, when you raise the issue of the nation's capital losing its only public hospital, which happens to be located in a minority neighborhood, people all around the country—and even the world—realize that this is a fight that is in their interest. If the policy of the Congress, and D.C. Financial Control Board, toward this hospital can be fought back, then the policy of genocidal cutbacks in health care—and other areas—can be cut back everywhere in the nation.

EIR: The media acknowledge this mobilization has completely changed the situation around the hospital, which was as good as closed in January. Who has responded, among the Democrats nationally, and why?

Spannaus: The most ardent level of support is coming from minority legislators, including the leadership of the Black Caucuses in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, and leaders of Black Caucuses in many other states, such as Mississippi and Pennsylvania.

But this is by no means a "black" issue. Trade unionists and other adherents of the FDR principle of government on behalf of the General Welfare, have come forward to support a resolution by the FDR-PAC, a political action committee of which I am Executive Director, in favor of saving the hospital.

More than 350 individuals have now signed nationally, and the movement is growing.

EIR: Why have so many state Black Caucus elected officials around the country taken action on this D.C. General issue?

Spannaus: In addition to the appeal of the issue itself, which is very hot among the working poor, I think you would have to add the factor of a reaction against the Gore candidacy, and the whole trend of the Democratic Party toward a suburban, centrist position. LaRouche associates organizing in the Midwest recently found that often the former Gore adherents, the party stalwarts, who previously were hysterically hostile to LaRouche, were among the most responsive to the issue of D.C. General. They are angry at having been let down by the Democratic Party, which aggressively sought their support, but would do nothing on behalf of their constituencies.

EIR: From your standpoint, what kind of leadership are the Democrats in California and nationally, giving on the "California energy catastrophe"? What about LaRouche Democrats on the West Coast?

Spannaus: The Democrats in California are looking to Gov. Gray Davis (D), and Davis is continuing to capitulate to both the raw power of the Bush-linked energy cartel, and the environmentalist ideology which has dominated the Democratic Party of California in recent years. Of course, Governor Davis is under enormous pressure, one could even call it blackmail, from the Federal government apparatus and the private energy cartels, but his capitulation is creating worse and worse problems for the state's population, and himself. There is no way that the energy catastrophe is not going to end up creating a disaster for the state, the country, and his political career, unless he breaks from *both* the free market and conservationist mantras, which are locking him into his current course.

The shock of reality is beginning to hit in California, and there are Democrats throughout the state who are beginning to listen to LaRouche. We've lobbied the state legislature and reached dozens of legislators who are open. But what's missing is visible leadership, which will force people to confront their own folly in going along with wind power, and conservation, and deregulation.

EIR: In your own state of Virginia, a "Silicon Valley East" grew up in the northern part of the state during the "IT" information technology bubble of the 1990s. During the 2000 Presidential campaign, LaRouche, and you in *New Federalist* newspaper, forecast collapse for this sector. What does it look like now, and what would you do about it?

Spannaus: There are many kinds of unreality that dominate Northern Virginia. The "dot.com" bubble is definitely one of them, and it is bursting, with many people quite panicked about the increasing number of layoffs. After all, in Loudoun County [where Spannaus lives], the average price of a McMansion has now gone up to nearly \$500,000—that's a single

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family home, often in the middle of the field! With people losing their highly overpaid jobs, these prices — and the whole real estate bubble — is just not going to last. The big expansion plans of WorldCom and the pretensions of PSInet are already collapsing, and people are feeling it.

What will tend to protect people somewhat is the fact that this area is a suburb of the Federal government, which will continue to spend money, even in the depression collapse. That's another layer of unreality, which protects people from facing the horror of the declining economic situation.

The danger in the collapse is what LaRouche has previously said: The “white shirts” will turn into the “brown-shirts,” as people get enraged about the collapse in their standards of living. And this danger is even greater because of the dominance which the “radical right” religious fundamentalists, many of them outright racists, have in Virginia. After all, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Ollie North, and [homeschooling guru] Mike Farris are all headquartered in this little state, which is right next door to our nation's capital.

What we have to do, therefore, is to give them a perspective of hope, of rebuilding in the region. People are screaming about “suburban sprawl”; the solution is to defeat KKKatie Graham and the other members of the Washington financial and political elite, who are intent upon carrying out “Negro removal” in Washington, D.C., and “farmer removal” in the countryside. Suburban sprawl is the direct result of the establishment's plans to depopulate and destroy our cities!

If we had a program for improving and rebuilding Washington, D.C., for modernizing transportation in the region, for enhancing real R&D outfits in areas of health and other sciences, for upgraded education, and for providing parity price supports for productive farms, we can give these people productive employment, and a perspective for getting ourselves out of this disaster.

EIR: Will Bush's tax cuts, or Greenspan's interest rate cuts, do anything to reverse this collapse?

Spannaus: Everything Bush and Greenspan are doing right now, is a fruitless effort to hold off the collapse through hyperinflation. Their measures will blow up in their faces.

EIR: In Virginia, since 1994, the Democratic Party has lost its century-long control of both houses, and lost all the state-

wide offices. Is this a national or local problem, and what has to be done to reverse this?

Spannaus: The Virginia Democratic Party has been dominated by Confederates and Confederate ideology for most of its history, unfortunately. The FDR legacy is very weak here, almost underground. And since the Republican Confederates came into power, more and more of those who used to vote Democratic have decided to go with the “team” that has power, the Republicans. Thus, “Bush Democrats” tend to lose to “Bush Republicans,” because, confronted with two Republican parties, people would rather have the real thing.

The biggest error the Virginia Democrats made was not to follow up on the victory against Ollie North, which was won with the leadership of us LaRouche Democrats. Instead, the leading Democrats turned around and followed the orders of Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Don Fowler to kick LaRouche out of the Presidential race in 1996, and the LaRouche Democrats like myself out of the party. This action sent a strong signal to FDR Democrats, who have increasingly dropped out of politics in disgust.

In other states where such action was taken against LaRouche Democrats, the result was similar. It is not possible for the Democratic Party to revive around the pro-racist, Southern Strategy ideas of Fowler, Gore, et al. Even sweeping defeats don't seem to have taught these fellows a lesson, so it's going to take those disenfranchised Democrats — and others — organizing themselves around LaRouche's ideas, and taking them into the party, in order for us to put the party, and the country, on the right track.

EIR: Do other Virginia Democratic leaders agree with you on this?

Spannaus: There are precious few who will admit so publicly. Leading black Delegate Billy Robinson stepped forward in the year 2000 to demand voting rights for LaRouche, and leading community activists stepped forward to oppose the expulsion of LaRouche's delegates from the primary process. Earlier, in 1998, there was even a majority on the Central Committee that refused to let LaRouche Democrats be kicked out of the party on the basis of their association. But, at present, the support is primarily underground. And it's going to have to come out, under the pressure of the crisis.