

Spannaus To Virginia: End 'Reign of Error'

by Anita Gallagher

The leading LaRouche Democrat in Virginia, Nancy Spannaus, who is the only Democrat who will threaten Republican John Warner's U.S. Senate seat in November, has put out her campaign policy in a call to citizens of the Commonwealth, "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Road to Recovery." She begins, "Listen to me, Virginia. You remember that my 1994 campaign helped you to save yourself from electing that Iran-Contra scamp Oliver North. Since that victory, you have made a string of mistakes, for which you are suffering today; but now, I'm here, again, to help you save yourself once more."

"Save" is the right word. Since the Democratic Party abandoned the leadership of Spannaus and Lyndon LaRouche in defeating Ollie North—the only major Republican defeated anywhere in the Gingrichite onslaught of 1994—the citizenry of Virginia has been subjected to the successive "reign of error" of GOP Governors George Allen and Jim Gilmore. Under Gilmore, the state's financial collapse was hidden by "creative accounting," to keep Gilmore's "no car tax" campaign gimmick afloat. The result? A \$3.8 billion budget deficit, alongside a huge physical deficit in transportation, schools, health care, and other infrastructure. Consider:

- At present, there are 4,000 trailers being used as classrooms in Virginia, while there is unused capacity for 4,000 inmates in the state's prisons;

- In wealthy Northern Virginia, the rate of tuberculosis infection zoomed by 17% in the last year, in contrast to nine years of national decline. Virginia is one of only two states that does not pay the cost of TB treatment. If the expensive medication is not taken for the full course, drug-resistant TB results, costing 100 times as much to treat. Sixty percent of the new drug-resistant TB cases in Virginia occurred last year in Fairfax County—the wealthiest in the nation.

- An auto commute to Washington, D.C. from Virginia bedroom communities may take two hours each way, which minimal rail service forces thousands to do every day. Over 90% of state highway construction has been on hold until April 1 because of the budget crisis.

Not only can't the state run its economy; it can't even run elections. On March 11, Judge Richard Pattisall overturned the state legislature's 2001 redistricting plan, passed by the Republican majority, for "racial gerrymandering" and creation of districts not "compact and contiguous." The judge ordered new elections for the House of Delegates in November—a year early.

Candidate Spannaus' full statement, on her website,

www.spannausforsenate.com, reminds Virginians that the terrible mess in the state and Democratic Party today is the direct result of their rejection of the LaRouche-Spannaus leadership after it defeated North.

"Remember what happened then?" asks Spannaus. "Understanding the mortal danger to our Republic, as well as to Virginia, of having Ollie North take a seat in the U.S. Senate, I launched the 'Defeat That Son-of-a-Bush' campaign. I set up an independent PAC [political action committee], and produced the *only* literature which exposed North's venal, even criminal, history of drug-running and coup-plotting, not to mention his plans for fascist looting, such as the privatization of Social Security. Democrats around the state, and the country, were calling the SOB Committee's offices, to get this ammunition—and pretty soon, Ollie was so destabilized that his handlers were putting him under wraps. We went in for the kill.

"Do you remember, Virginia? Democrats who had previously taken their opinions on Lyndon LaRouche from the lying *Washington Post*, all of a sudden decided that the leadership of a LaRouche Democrat was a very good, and useful, thing. Even many Republicans stopped to consider what they were doing. And North, with his 4-to-1 advantage in campaign funds, came to a crashing defeat. Senator [Chuck] Robb [the Democratic incumbent], among many others, knew that I had saved his political career."

A Challenge to the Democratic Leadership

Spannaus is gathering independent petitions to oppose Warner, since the nearly defunct state Democratic Party has again chosen to give 76-year-old Senator Warner a free reelection, and state chairman Larry Framme has not responded to Spannaus' letter asking for the party's endorsement.

Her statement asks: "How did you let yourself be fooled so much by such political candidates for so long, Virginia? . . . Your leaders are trying to flee from the fact that we are in a depression, by beating the drums of worldwide war. You are frightened by the reality of the economic crisis, but you are terrified by the fact that there is no sign of real economic leadership from Washington."

Spannaus is representing LaRouche's leadership against the global economic depression, and puts Virginia's budget disaster in that perspective: "It is a plain fact, that Lyndon LaRouche is the world's most accurate economic forecaster. He has never been wrong in any published long-range forecast he has made in more than 35 years. . . . He has warned you repeatedly, as he and I, have told you before: We are not facing a state budget crisis, or a problem of the 'business cycle.' It's going to take a new world financial system, based on the principles of FDR's Bretton Woods system, to get us out of this mess."

The candidate's full statement details financial, taxation, banking, and investment policy changes that she and LaRouche will implement, as well as infrastructure ideas for the state and regional economy.