
Interview: Anna B. Bourgois

Senatorial candidate: 'Volcker is a disaster'

Anna B. Bourgois is the independent National Democratic Policy Committee-endorsed candidate for the U.S. Senate from North Dakota. She faces a three-way Nov. 2 election against incumbent Democrat Quentin Burdick and Republican Gene Knorr. Bourgois talked with EIR's Frank Bell on Oct. 9 from her farm near Bismarck.

EIR: What sparked your decision to run for the U.S. Senate?

Bourgois: When Gene Knorr (the candidate who stunned GOP traditionalists when he bought the Republican nomination) said that he was a friend of [Federal Reserve Chairman] Paul Volcker's, and that Volcker was a nice family man, that sent terrible shocks through my system. When I called people in the state legislature who initially told me about the Federal Reserve and told them of Knorr's comments, they said, "Don't worry, he'll never get the nomination."

When I announced my candidacy, it was like a bomb that hit North Dakota. Republicans called from all over saying, "You are going to be taking votes away from Gene Knorr." There has been a lot of pressure for me to pull out of the race. The Republicans had what they called a "head honcho" meeting to try to stop me from getting my signatures (to qualify for the ballot as an independent candidate).

Then when I put out a statement on the platform the Democrats adopted at their Philadelphia mid-term convention, the Democrats thought that Knorr had hired me to run. But I'm independent. That's why I have been involved with the NDPC and support its four-point program, the Anti-Drug Coalition, and the Fusion Energy Foundation.

EIR: What do you see as the outcome of this election?

Bourgois: Anything can happen. The two other candidates are not presenting any issues whatsoever; they are just fighting over who has the most money to spend to attack each other.

The primary issues are development, the high interest rates, the farmers and small businesses that are being foreclosed on, and the building industry collapse. I've been to farm rallies for people who have been foreclosed on and they tell you that they are going hungry.

I've asked the governor [Republican Allen Olson] to get off his laurels and declare a moratorium like Bill Langer did in the 1930s. When I put out that news release it was covered for two days. The press asked his office, but he refused to

comment. I said he should implement a moratorium or resign. He went to Red China. But I call it a hoax. What farm products is he going to be selling from North Dakota, when the farms are being foreclosed on?

EIR: Tell our international readers what has happened to North Dakota in the recent period.

Bourgois: North Dakota is a Midwest state on the Canadian border with a population of just over 650,000 people in an area of more than 70,000 square miles. It is mostly an agricultural state. It has suffered a real blow. We have lost more than 10,000 farms since 1967. From Oct. 1, 1981 to July 31, 1982, North Dakota lost about 20 farms a month just on Farm Home Administration foreclosures alone.

The cost per acre for planting spring wheat—the break-even—is \$3.20 a bushel. That does not include the cost to farmers for labor or debt payments. The price paid this year was \$3.20 per bushel. So most farmers worked for nothing and went further in debt. Last year's price was \$3.90.

The break-even cost for sunflowers is 7 cents a pound. This also doesn't include the cost of labor or debt payments. The price paid this year was \$8.50 per hundred weight. Last year it was \$11.

Dairy products have a parity support this year of \$12.50 per hundred weight. Last year it was \$13.25. Beef steers' price last year was 80 to 85 cents a pound. This year it is 70 cents a pound. But we sold a young steer not too long ago for only 45 cents a pound.

EIR: Why hasn't the Garrison water project, which you support, been completed?

Bourgois: Well, we have the Audubon Society and the Committee to Save North Dakota that have been trying to block it. This project includes one of the world's largest earth-filled dams. Its reservoir has a water capacity of 24.5 million acre/feet in a lake 200 miles long. It's a multi-purpose project. The canal is supposed to go over into eastern North Dakota from its start on the Missouri River.

EIR: What do you think of the integrity of the people who define themselves as the leadership of the right-to-life movement?

Bourgois: They compromise. For example, the right-to-life movement and the Catholic Conference in North Dakota are involved in the hospice movement.

I sent information to the national headquarters of the American Life Lobby about my campaign. They have not even called. If they are looking for a strong, pro-life candidate, I'm the only one. They've shown themselves to be another false front.

They are planning to put out an attack on Lyndon LaRouche in the next issue of their publication. This is another hypocrisy. They have been using information from the NDPC without giving the NDPC credit, and now they are planning a slander of LaRouche.