

Jersey slate out to 'jail dope bankers'

by Marla Minnicino

"We intend to make New Jersey the first state in the U.S. to jail a drug banker," announced Elliot Greenspan, LaRouche candidate for Congress in New Jersey's 9th C.D. Candidates backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee are running in 13 of the state's 14 congressional districts in the June 3 Democratic primary, said Greenspan, an internationally known fighter against narcotics trafficking.

Calling themselves the "FDR Democrats," the New Jersey LaRouche slate urges a military-economic gear-up of basic industry in the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt, which would be accomplished by lowering interest rates and channeling cheap credit into the productive sector.

From Newark to Atlantic City, Bergen County to Cape May, they have taken this program to New Jersey citizens, especially the idea of attacking the dope problem by investigating "citizens above suspicion" whose money-laundering activities are the key to organized crime. The defeat of Kenneth Gibson, Newark's mayor for 16 years, made clear that New Jersey voters want the "Dope, Inc." apparatus in the state cleaned up. Residents of Newark's Central Ward, interviewed by one radio station following the election, volunteered that they voted Gibson out because he "gave up" on the war on drugs.

Propose legislation

The fight to destroy Dope, Inc. is the major plank of the LaRouche slate in New Jersey. "We have proposed legislation which would make drug-money laundering a criminal offense, and, if passed, would succeed in shutting down these drug banks and their friends, the casinos in Atlantic City," said Greenspan in a recent interview with the *New Jersey Prosecutor*. "We have also proposed an all-out shooting war against drug pushers internationally, by deploying the military forces and every law-enforcement capability at our disposal. Our legislation would also give the country the ability to confiscate illegal narcotics revenues."

Greenspan and the other 12 LaRouche congressional candidates have demanded an investigation of New Jersey's First Fidelity Bank—exposed in the *Wall Street Journal* for wildly illegal deals with known members of organized-crime families—and its president, Robert Ferguson. Ferguson, the "ca-

sino's banker," provided seed money to bring Meyer Lansky's Resorts International into New Jersey before any other bank dared do so, and hosted luncheons to introduce casino "executives" to the business and legislative community. This opened the floodgates for money-laundering operations beginning under former Gov. Brendan Byrne, who promoted casinos as an economic boost for the state.

New Jersey, whose factories once powered America's World War II production effort, is now better known as a center of the mafia. Now, New Jersey voters have the opportunity to restore its tarnished image by voting for a slate of candidates that has pledged to put the dope bankers in jail and rebuild the state's crumbling industrial base.

The LaRouche candidates have proposed a crash program to implement the Strategic Defense Initiative, as the centerpiece of a national economic mobilization. New Jersey is the perfect place for that kind of crash effort, the candidates point out, because of the high concentration of scientists and engineers involved in defense-related R&D, and availability of industrial plant which could easily be utilized for SDI work.

The Gramm-Rudman budget-cutting legislation and the "free enterprise" mentality dominating the Reagan administration are the major impediments to such a plan, say the NDPC candidates. "Cities like Elizabeth, Paterson, Perth Amboy, Jersey City, and Newark should not be uninhabitable slums where poor people are forced to live," said Greenspan, "places where AIDS threatens every family, where even measles can become a major epidemic, due to the breakdown of health and sanitary conditions; and where drugs, crime, and unemployment are the major concerns of every citizen." Instead, "our cities must be invested in, not with casinos and convention centers, but with real housing. We need to make our cities into industrial centers once again, cultural centers and places of beauty that people will want to live in and raise their kids."

The LaRouche slate in New Jersey has put Democratic incumbents on edge. Many of them are beholden to the dope financiers for their careers. For example, as soon as he heard he would face LaRouche Democrat Charles Kahler in the party primary, Rep. James Florio of the 1st C.D. gave a press conference denouncing all the LaRouche candidates. In Union County's 7th C.D., party officials fielded a last-minute candidate against LaRouche supporter James Cleary, a former NASA engineer who polled 15% in the 1984 Democratic primary.

Representative Robert Torricelli, being challenged by Elliot Greenspan in the 9th C.D., gave voice to the party leadership's nervousness over the LaRouche slate. Commenting on a race by LaRouche Democrat Denise Ham, in the 5th C.D.—just north of Torricelli's own—against newcomer Vernon Jolley, Torricelli noted: "A LaRouche challenge to a little-known newcomer, such as Jolley, is alarmingly similar to that of the Illinois primary [which LaRouche candidates won in March]. . . . There may be cause for real concern."