

# Virginia Dems ready to commit suicide?

by Ronald Kokinda

Nancy Spannaus, a LaRouche Democrat and the only declared candidate for the Democratic nomination against Virginia U.S. Sen. John Warner (R), charged Jan. 29 that actions taken by the state Democratic Party to block her candidacy pose a grave threat to the civil rights of all her fellow party members. The Democratic Party of Virginia, which recently won two statewide campaigns sloganeering on "a woman's right to choose," is denying Spannaus's right to run for their Senate nomination solely because she is a LaRouche Democrat. The party, under the leadership of Paul Goldman, campaign manager for Gov. Doug Wilder, the first elected black governor in the U.S., is proposing to avoid nominating Spannaus by 1) having a committee appoint a candidate, forgoing a primary or a convention, or 2) running no one at all. The party's Central Committee is expected to approve a course of action on Feb. 10.

Such an abdication of leadership by deciding to run a token candidate or none at all while ignoring Spannaus, in the face of an ongoing economic depression, will be political suicide. In 1986, the Illinois Democratic Party committed suicide when Adlai Stevenson, the gubernatorial nominee, refused to campaign with LaRouche Democrats on the statewide ticket, bolted the party, and suffered a humiliating loss. The smell of an inter-party backroom deal is in the air as Goldman has been telling the press that the party will run no one, while Warner has been quoted as accepting his unopposed status "with humility."

Spannaus demanded that she address the Democratic Committee. "At present, it appears that the Democratic Committee is planning to adopt the anti-democratic procedure of ignoring my year-long candidacy, and simply declaring 'no contest' to the reelection bid of Senator Warner," Spannaus said. "If the party does this, it will be moving against its traditional constituencies in labor, farming, and the civil rights layer—in order to mimic the rhetoric and style of George Bush," thus turning the Democratic Party "into the same kind of isolated country-club group that characterizes the Republicans. Such an immoral abandonment of its base will kill the Democratic Party sooner or later."

## Yes, Virginia, there is a Bill of Rights

This outrageous denial of civil rights prompted Amelia Boynton Robinson—who, in the vanguard of the 1965 Selma March across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, suffered gassing

and beating by the Alabama state troopers, which treatment fired the determination of millions in this nation to join the fight for justice led by Dr. Martin Luther King—to issue an open letter to the Virginia Democratic Party. Mrs. Robinson said that all the struggles for civil rights, all the suffering "will be for naught," if Spannaus's candidacy is denied.

"How is this blackout any different than the old poll tax?" she asked. "We fought for decades to get the right to vote for all Americans. What good is the right to vote, if qualified candidates are kept off the ballot, because somebody in power doesn't like them?"

"Southern bigots made it impossible for black people to vote—just because they are black—by designing impossible voting regulations. The Democratic Party in the Commonwealth of Virginia is now preparing to go one step further: to make it impossible to vote for a candidate associated with Lyndon LaRouche—just because he is Lyndon LaRouche—by eliminating the election altogether!"

Mrs. Robinson reminded Democrats that it was LaRouche who led the fight for a real War on Drugs, who first identified AIDS as the genocidal killer of black and brown people, and "who has inherited the mantle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. [in] leading the fight for human rights through economic development around the world. . . .

"If the Democratic Party acts to prevent their candidacies, they will have set a *most dangerous precedent* for the state and nation as a whole, that can be used against any 'undesirable' candidate in the future," she wrote.

Spannaus said that a non-serious challenge to Warner "would be insane. As a Bush Republican, Warner is going along with the policies bringing us deeper and deeper into economic depression. He's supporting plant shutdowns and defense shutdowns. He is so immoral that he voted against the Chinese students."

Spannaus said she had "the only program to turn around the depression collapse. Thousands of Virginians are suffering, and will suffer more, because of austerity policies. I'm with LaRouche because he is the one statesman with the domestic and international program to reverse the depression, and start a real economic recovery. . . . Does the Democratic Party deny that we are in a depression? Has it bought the Bush administration propaganda? Is it so out of touch with farmers, workers, and inner-city residents that it thinks we are in a recovery?"

"In summary, the measures which I would introduce in the Senate would be aimed at fostering rapid scientific and technological progress, and stimulating growth in the physical economy. Over a matter of a few years, these measures will bring in the tax revenues that will reduce the federal deficit, whereas budget-cutting measures will simply accelerate the collapse. The last time that such measures were undertaken in Washington was during the presidency of John F. Kennedy. . . . If I were the Democratic nominee, I could win the election."