

## Spannaus announces independent campaign

Nancy Spannaus, the only Democratic candidate against incumbent Republican U.S. Senator John Warner, announced April 24 she will campaign as an Independent Democrat. Her announcement came after the Virginia Democratic Party caucuses held April 21 and 23, according to press accounts, endorsed "No Candidate" to run against Warner.

"As of today, I am proceeding to organize my Independent Democrat campaign" against Warner, Spannaus said. "This has become necessary due to the extreme and unprecedented repudiation of democratic procedures by the Bush Democrats running the Virginia party.

"In a clear panic over the depth of support for LaRouche's policies and moral outlook in the base of the Virginia Democratic Party, the Bush Democrats chose to dissolve themselves into the Republican camp. By this measure, they appear to have won a majority for John Warner, and thereby ensure the cancellation of the party convention. If this is what they call 'victory,' then their outlook is distorted indeed."

Spannaus said that "the procedure of the Democratic Party caucuses shut out the interests of the poor and working-class people who would like to look to the Democrats as their defenders. . . . The list of violations of party rules and procedures carried out by the Bush Democrats in the course of this farcical convention process" showed what party leaders think of them and their interests, she said, adding that she will be detailing the violations to the national Democratic Party.

The Spannaus slate was able to bring out between 25 to 33% of the voters in a number of caucuses around the state. That "demonstrates to me that we have tremendous strength," Spannaus said.

"My Independent Democrat campaign will continue to mobilize Virginians around alternatives to John Warner's complicity in the Bush administration's policies of depression economics and appeasement of communist tyranny. The proposals of economist and candidate for U.S. Congress Lyndon LaRouche are the only alternative to policies that are destroying our nation, and could easily lead to world war."

### Bush Dems fear specter of Illinois

The Spannaus campaign led the press in Virginia, from the very beginning, to compare it to the upset victories achieved by two LaRouche Democrats in Illinois in 1986. Five weeks before Spannaus had even filed as a candidate, the *Washington Post* indicated the major reason for rules changes in the Democratic Party: to prevent victories for LaRouche Democrats.

The rules changes meant that, first of all, the local Democratic Party in every municipality, had to hold caucuses—party meetings to vote for one of two possible choices for Virginia Democrats: Either "No Candidate" (which conceded that Warner would be the only candidate for Senate) or the Spannaus for Senate slate.

To qualify her campaign, Spannaus needed 350 delegates. On April 18, Spannaus announced a slate of over 550 delegates. The Democratic Party regulars immediately swung into action—preferring to cede the election to Warner by not putting up a candidate.

Virginia's Democrats, who have become known as Bush Democrats because of their refusal to run any opposition to Warner, had every reason to be nervous. When a Spannaus spokesman addressed the Metal Trades Council rally attended by 300 workers to protest layoffs at the Hampton Roads shipyard, Spannaus was cheered loudly. The transparent refusal of the Democratic Party to defend its traditional base of labor and minorities against the outrages of the Clean Air bill, which will destroy many businesses in Virginia, has led to the emergence of a popular movement around the Spannaus campaign.

At the caucuses, Spannaus campaign organizers at the polling places reported a favorable response to a sign that read, "The Brain Needs Broccoli—Look at George Bush." Several hundred delegate candidates came out and fought for their vote, which forced the party machine to mobilize to stop the Spannaus slate, destroying the credibility of the party apparatus, since they had to activate people to support their "no candidate" or "uncommitted" delegates, to the disgust of many local chairmen. In the 10th Congressional District in northern Virginia, where LaRouche is running for Congress, the Democratic Party chairmen went berserk. In southeast Virginia, the party hacks started dragging people out of the gyms and the eco-fascist Earth Day celebrations when the Spannaus slate was running neck and neck with their "no candidate slate." One Spannaus organizer played Beethoven outside the polling center, which led the local party chairman Barbara Hickey to call frantically, "We need help—they've got us surrounded."

In Hopewell, where the Spannaus slate had more delegates than the Democratic Party, with 15 for Spannaus and 10 for "No Candidate," "Old South" tactics were used. The local chairman called the 4th C.D. chairman, a labor lawyer, and made a special point of order to bend the rules to let him come into the already-closed caucus. "Here's what the party wants you to do: The Democratic Party voted overwhelming not to have a candidate. You people don't want to waste time on this," he told the 4th C.D. chairman. He then implied that the Spannaus delegates would be voting against the party if they voted for Spannaus. The threat was that if the Spannaus delegates stuck to their position, they would be thrown out of the party. Out of the 15 delegates, 12 changed their vote, while 3 voted for Spannaus.