

LaRouche Dem Spannaus Sets Virginia Agenda

by EIR Staff

This year's Labor Day political kickoff event in Virginia, held, according to tradition, in the Shenandoah Valley town of Buena Vista, brought all the major statewide officials and candidates together, to address the citizens of the Commonwealth on the major issues of the day. In reality, only LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus, the chief challenger to incumbent Sen. John Warner (R), had anything serious to say.

After the two-and-a-half-mile parade, which Spannaus campaign volunteers leafletted with "The Electable LaRouche" fliers issued by Lyndon LaRouche's Presidential campaign committee, all the candidates gathered in Glen Maury Park to address the smaller than usual crowd. Leading off the speeches was Senator Warner, who, in previous events, had emphasized his concern for the economy and senior citizens of the Commonwealth. But at this event, the Senator decided to play the "patriotic" card, referencing the flag, the "unity" of Americans, and other symbolic appeals to public sentiment.

After this rah-rah performance, the audience was undoubtedly shocked to hear Spannaus, the second speaker, address the depth of the crisis they face.

Ready To Listen Now?

"Do you remember when Lyndon LaRouche and I warned you that the wild speculative stock market bubble was going to come to an end?" Spannaus began. Do you remember how you didn't want to believe it? Now, with the layoffs, budget crises, and bankruptcies hitting, you have to admit that LaRouche was right. Are you ready to listen now?

Spannaus outlined how the United States has reached the proverbial eleventh hour. The financial system is finished, and the nation could at any point—unless there is a reverse in course—collapse into a condition as bad, or worse, than that of Argentina, which was previously a land of abundant meat and grain, and now is overwhelmed with starving children. This is a New Dark Age in the making. The second aspect of the crisis, she went on, is the drive by the lunatics in the Bush Administration to provoke a war against the Muslims of the world. This war has nothing to do with Iraq, she said. And it can't be won—as even many members of the U.S. military have pointed out. But the lunatics want it anyway, in order to change the subject to war.

The crucial lever for dealing with this crisis, however, Spannaus said, is to focus on the core issue, the financial



Labor Day in Virginia: LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus, opponent of Sen. John Warner (R), told the truth about the national and state financial collapse, to holiday gatherings such as this traditional parade in Buena Vista. Senator Warner and the state's governor, who spoke after Spannaus, were in denial.

and economic collapse. She outlined LaRouche's program: 1) putting the nation through Chapter 11 bankruptcy—lifting the unpayable debt off the backs of people and industry; 2) re-regulating the economy—putting an end to privatization and Enrons; and 3) a massive infusion of billions of dollars of Federal credit, to start a vast program of rebuilding and restoring collapsing infrastructure, starting with the rail system. This approach echoes that which was carried out by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was the last President to restore the Constitutional commitment to the General Welfare to the actions of the Federal government. It worked, and it can be done again.

In fact, Spannaus concluded, only by following LaRouche's Road to Recovery program, will the population have a chance to survive.

A Sense of Unreality

Before the crowd had a chance to take in this message, however, the "boolah-boolah" was back. The next speaker was Gov. Mark Warner (D), ebullient as ever, full of thank-yous and congratulations—and totally avoiding the severity of the crisis facing Virginians. On this occasion, as at the Democratic Party breakfast earlier in the morning, the state's devastating budget crisis was treated as an "endurance contest," which the Governor was destined to win.

Governor Warner can not deny that the state is now plunging into its second round of deep cutbacks in education, health, transportation, and other areas, which threaten to be even larger than the cuts which were forced by the \$4 billion shortfall in the last budget, less than a year ago. Fears have already been voiced of a \$5 billion shortfall in the current budget, as the state's revenues collapse along with its high-

tech and dot.com "corridors." But the Governor insisted on presenting this as a "test of character," rather than the utter disaster which it represents for people's lives. The only positive program put forward was a set of bond issues which will be on the November ballot, to fund colleges and "conservation."

Governor Warner didn't respond to the fact that a solution—only available through a political mobilization on the national level—had been put on the table by Spannaus.

In fact, it was only at the second Labor Day celebration of the day, the union-sponsored festivities in Covington, that a sense of reality came through.

Covington is an industrial town dominated by the WestVaco Company, a paper plant, and deserted by many of the secondary industries that once found a home there. The route for the this city's parade was much more densely lined with people, but they exuded a sense of quiet despair. The speakers at the rally following the parade felt compelled to address that sense of rage and frustration, by talking about the need to create jobs, protect the incomes of retirees, and even—amazingly enough—launch a project of rail transport up the Shenandoah Valley, as an alternative to the dangerous, overcrowded highway, Interstate 81.

Spannaus also addressed this Labor Day event, and got a warmer response. That response showed the way citizens in the suffering industrial towns and farm areas will respond to LaRouche's national infrastructure "November emergency program," as the Fall's economic crisis quickly worsens.

With the statewide campaign launched, the question remains: Will any other political leader come forward to debate a real solution to the current crisis? Will constituency leaders, or just plain citizens, come forward themselves?