

Virginia Dems try to rule out politics

Some 3,000 delegates at the Virginia state Democratic convention held in Richmond on June 9-10 did their best to avoid any serious politics. But six LaRouche-connected delegates, in addition to Mrs. Nancy Spannaus, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in 1990, would not let them escape.

As far as official business went, the delegates rubber-stamped the party's choices for statewide candidates this November: Lt. Gov. Douglas Wilder for governor; auto dealer Don Beyer for lieutenant governor; and incumbent Mary Sue Terry for attorney general. Wilder, if elected, would be the first black governor in the United States. His nomination was a foregone conclusion, and reflects more the topdown control of the party by the current leadership, than any serious grassroots movement. And this control was very much in evidence at the convention.

The political show featured a display of party unity among Wilder, current Gov. Gerald Baliles, and U.S. Sen. Chuck Robb. Baliles and Wilder have been feuding over differences involving Baliles's use of state police in a strike by the United Mine Workers union against Pittston Coal. Robb and Wilder have also had their differences, including Robb making public letters that were strongly critical of Wilder's 1985 campaign.

The only group to oppose the beauty contest atmosphere and the tight control over the convention by Democratic Party leaders, was the small LaRouche force. They were gathering signatures on a petition to bring an emergency resolution from the floor condemning the government of Communist China as the Butchers of Beijing, and the Bush-Kissinger policy of apologizing for Deng Xiaoping and betraying the democratic movement. Even though the resolution was not able to be brought to the floor due to lack of time, a couple of hundred people signed in a short time, and the drive set off intense debates. Real politics had suddenly appeared in the deathly dull environment.

The intervention continued inside the convention, where Dr. Stephen Pepper, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, sought election as state party chairman. The announcement caused the Rules Committee to determine that any candidate's nominating statements should be limited to two minutes—but in practice, the chairman cut it to one minute.

Pepper told the convention: "Lyndon LaRouche—and I cherish his name—Lyndon LaRouche warned that if his po-

litical frameup was allowed to stand, the same tactics could be used against other leading Democrats. Since then, we have seen Jim Wright go down. We have seen Tony Coelho go down. And now, the dirty-tricks politics is aimed at the entire House majority." Pepper concluded, "And LaRouche offers himself to lead this fight as candidate in the 10th Congressional District." At that point, the microphone was turned off.

LaRouche delegate Patricia Salisbury found Attorney General Mary Sue Terry—who has led the state prosecutions of 16 individuals and five corporations associated with LaRouche for so-called "securities violations"—and gave her a leaflet describing the connections of Assistant U.S. Attorney John Markham, who prosecuted LaRouche in Boston and Alexandria, to the Process Church which spawned the Charles Manson gang and the Son of Sam killers.

On June 10, Nancy Spannaus led the group in distributing leaflets announcing her slate of office seekers, including LaRouche. The leaflet also denounced the failed Kissinger "China card" policy.

Sheriff boasts of jailing LaRouche

In the context of a bored and restive convention, saturated with literature produced by the LaRouche Democrats, Sheriff John Isom of Loudoun County, Virginia chose to deliver a 10-minute speech seconding the nomination of Mary Sue Terry. LaRouche is a resident of Loudoun County, and Isom played a leading role in the local "Get LaRouche" task force.

His speech was a tirade against LaRouche and fundraisers associated with him, praising Attorney General Terry for her role in jailing the former presidential candidate. What was surprising, was that Isom, a law enforcement officer, in uniform, commented in a prejudicial way before a political gathering, concerning ongoing criminal prosecutions.

In contrast to the role of the small LaRouche contingent, organized labor's nearly 600 delegates had mobilized on behalf of the mine workers, but to little effect. Bowing to pressure not to disrupt the convention, the miners were reduced to standing with their backs to the podium during Governor Baliles's speech.

And now, the Democrats will have to face their Republican opponents. GOP gubernatorial candidate Marshall Coleman will be backed by a major party effort. The show of unity behind Doug Wilder may soon turn out to be just a show. The state Democratic Party, unwilling to exercise political leadership, is leaving that to the small LaRouche forces.

In the November election, there will be three LaRouche candidates for the House of Delegates: Nereida Cordero-Thompson in Loudoun County (32nd District), Juliette Wilson in Danville (2nd District), and Linda Robinson in Norfolk (87th), all running as independents. In addition, in 1990, there are Nancy Spannaus for U.S. Senate, and Lyndon LaRouche for Congress in the 10th C.D.