

EIRFeature

History may take revenge on Mary Sue Terry

Virginia has twice been the site of strategic defeats of this nation's mortal enemies. In 1781, the British surrendered at Yorktown; in 1865, the forces of the British-backed Confederacy surrendered at Appomattox. (Appomattox bills itself today as the place "Where our nation reunited.") Will 1993 see another major defeat?

The enemies of our republic are on the defensive again today in Virginia. Mary Sue Terry, the former Virginia attorney general who embodies just about every facet of the political corruption which is destroying our nation, has gone from being a 30-point favorite in the current gubernatorial race, to fighting desperately to save her political neck. The key force in Terry's retreat is the growing strength of LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus, who is running against Terry as an independent in this year's election.

Indeed, the "LaRouche factor" is becoming the determining element in this nationally watched race, possibly marking the most prominent emergence of LaRouche as an electoral factor since the last high-water mark in 1985-86 (see maps, pp. 31-35).

Terry's demise is particularly fitting, because she has played a key role in the national "Get LaRouche" task force which coordinated federal and state legal frameups of LaRouche and many of his associates. In March 1987, Terry publicly vowed to drive organizations associated with LaRouche out of the state. Now, she may go down to political defeat at the hands of the movement she tried and failed to crush.

The LaRouche case has started to become an issue between Terry and her Republican opponent, George Allen. In an Oct. 12 televised debate between Terry and Allen, Allen asked Terry why she had spent \$25 million travelling at taxpayer expense to resorts in Nevada and Arizona and other such pleasant places. Terry answered that as president of the National Association of Attorneys General, she had attended conferences to deal with issues like the recall of ambulances, model insurance legislation, and "to work in partnership with others as it related to the



Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry (center, wearing skirt) on Oct. 8, 1986 at a Richmond press conference called to celebrate the “get LaRouche” raid.

prosecution of Lyndon LaRouche.”

Terry’s first really bad week opened with a lead editorial Oct. 3 in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch’s* Sunday edition titled “Mary Sue Bush?” which analyzed what it called Terry’s “September stumble.” The same day, the *Washington Post* featured a contrived poll showing Terry with a 48-46% lead over Republican Allen (while most polls are showing around 25% still undecided and some are showing Allen leading). Of more interest was what the *Post* reported about dissatisfaction with their two chosen candidates: The poll showed that 34% of Virginia voters wished there were a third candidate in the race. (True to form, the *Post* blacked out the fact that there *is* a third candidate—Spannaus—with strong support among labor and black voters.) And then, on Oct. 7, the *Washington Post* ran an article headlined, “After a Fast Start, Terry Is Stumbling.”

Oct. 7 was also the first “official” debate between the “major” candidates, Terry and Allen. However, much of the coverage of the debate also featured statements by Spannaus denouncing the new media’s attempts to rig the election, and shots of Spannaus supporters picketing outside the NBC studios where the first debate was held.

Earlier the same day, a bombshell hit Terry in Richmond, when Roanoke psychiatrist William G. Gray told the State Board of Medicine that he had treated a female lover of Terry’s who had then committed suicide in 1990. Gray—who has himself been accused of sex crimes—claimed that he had advised this patient over an eight-year period to break

off the relationship with Terry. Gray’s sensational allegations were featured across the state that evening in television coverage, and the next day in all the major Virginia newspapers (see p. 28).

Terry’s immediate response was to try to link the allegations to LaRouche and his supporters. She called the allegations “vile,” “ridiculous,” and even “untrue,” and said: “The same thing happened to me when I prosecuted Lyndon LaRouche’s associates. His followers have also engaged in a smear campaign against me for years.”

Terry challenged to ‘come clean’

Dr. Gray’s allegations came only a few days after a six-page leaflet titled “Virginians Need to Know the Truth about Mary Sue Terry” had been released by the Spannaus campaign. The Spannaus broadside featured blackmail threats made against Terry by former Loudoun County, Virginia Deputy Sheriff Donald Moore, who was Terry’s pointman in the Virginia “LaRouche” cases. Overheard on FBI wiretaps, Moore said he had warned Terry’s Assistant Attorney General John Russell that he, Moore, could “blow the LaRouche investigation sky-high” if Terry did anything to damage Moore’s hoped-for political career.

John Russell, who personally prosecuted all the Virginia “LaRouche” cases for Terry, seems to have gotten the message. Five months later, in December 1992, he perjured himself in Don Moore’s defense when Moore was tried on federal kidnap conspiracy charges. Russell’s perjury is the clearest

proof that Moore was not lying when he said he had damaging information on Mary Sue Terry's handling of the LaRouche cases.

Moore's charges are potentially much more serious than the allegations of Terry's lesbian relationships, in that they go to Terry's conduct in the courtroom, not just her conduct in the bedroom. The exposure of Moore's blackmail threats against Terry have been circulating throughout the state, along with Spannaus radio ads on the same theme. Spannaus's brochure asserts that Terry "has an obligation to come clean before the elections," so that Virginians do not have a repeat of the situation with J. Edgar Hoover, the late FBI chief who was reportedly blackmailed by organized crime over his homosexual lifestyle.

EIR has reprinted the full text of the leaflet beginning on p. 25.

NAACP debate

Predictably, Terry's paranoia reached new heights the day after Gray's allegations hit, during negotiations over the arrangements for a debate involving all three gubernatorial candidates being held before the state convention of the Virginia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). According to knowledgeable sources, Terry went berserk when she heard that the NAACP had invited Spannaus to participate. Terry reportedly threatened to boycott the NAACP altogether if she had to appear on the same platform as Spannaus, arguing that Spannaus might bring up the allegations of Terry's homosexuality. Under this pressure, the NAACP leadership agreed to change the format, so that each candidate appeared separately for about 30 minutes of questioning by a panel of reporters.

Spannaus, who appeared first, emphasized the differences between herself and her two opponents, especially on the issues of the death penalty and parole, on the economy, and on education.

Questions from the panelists to Spannaus included queries about her program for infrastructure, her reasons for opposing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the reasons for her campaign slogan, "Virginia Is for Mothers."

Spannaus's appearance in the NAACP debate, and Terry's refusal to debate her, caused a significant breach in the press blackout. A number of papers around the state covered the debate and Spannaus's inclusion in it. Breaking profile, the *Washington Post* ran a prominent story entitled "Terry Refuses to Debate Independent Candidate," with a photo of Spannaus. The *Post* even gave reasonably accurate coverage to Spannaus's views as expressed during the NAACP debate, and reported that Republican candidate George Allen had—in the words of his press secretary—"pitched a fit" because Terry rejected the debate format."

Concerning the death penalty, Spannaus's opposition to this form of ritual torture could not contrast more with both

Terry and Allen, who have been vying with each other as to who can be "tougher" on criminals by eliminating parole for violent criminals and carrying out the death penalty. Terry has also run "tough" television spots promising to eliminate all color television sets from Virginia prisons.

On education, Spannaus is the only candidate mobilizing meetings and protest demonstrations to shut down such New Age brainwashing programs as outcome-based education, while Allen has given only lip-service opposition (see p. 30).

'Spannaus got the attention'

But the real shocker for the Terry campaign came on Oct. 10, in a powerful warning to Terry and the Bush Democrats issued by the *Roanoke Times and World-News*. The headline blared: "Black Vote Not Secure: Terry, Allen Fail To Impress NAACP." Underneath was a subhead in large type: "Democrats would have freaked if they'd seen all the LaRouche literature in NAACP conventioners' briefcases this weekend. Just goes to show: Democrats don't have the black vote in the bag this run for Governor" (see box, p. 26).

The author of the article had come up to the Spannaus table at the NAACP convention on the day after the debate to demand to know: "What is going on? Everyone is talking about Spannaus. Did I miss something?" She had. Her newspaper, like the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the *Washington Post*, had up to that point assiduously eliminated Spannaus from its daily campaign coverage.

Over the week following the NAACP debate, Spannaus's campaign further deepened its influence among black civil rights layers through a tour by the Rev. James Bevel, a close associate of Dr. Martin Luther King and Lyndon LaRouche's vice-presidential running mate in the 1992 presidential elections.

Within the labor movement, more problems for Terry emerged as du Pont heir and LaRouche associate Lewis du Pont Smith addressed a number of meetings of union members at DuPont plants in Virginia, urging them to support Spannaus's campaign. Du Pont Smith's tour received high-profile press coverage throughout the state, adding to the problems already faced by Terry because of Spannaus's strong support among striking coal miners in southwest Virginia (see p. 31).

The Virginia race has clearly entered a new phase. Now that the efforts to contain Spannaus's campaign through an almost universal press blackout has failed, Spannaus campaign coordinators say they expect new efforts, including dirty tricks and threats. The Spannaus campaign has announced its intention to escalate its efforts with a media blitz throughout the state.

With Spannaus's campaign showing particular strength among the Democratic party's traditional labor and black constituencies, and with new scandals hitting Mary Sue Terry, it may well be too late to stop Terry's campaign from unravelling.