

Spannaus takes on North in Virginia

The nomination of "secret government" insider Oliver North as the Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate in Virginia on June 4 found only one of the four Democratic candidates—LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus—fully prepared to do battle. Spannaus's campaign "hit the ground running" against North, with her campaign literature and radio and TV ads already targeting North as a drug-runner who is unfit to be anywhere near the United States Senate.

"If you want to stop crime, you have to defeat Ollie North," Spannaus declared in her half-hour television advertisement, which aired all over Virginia on June 6 and 7.

On the second day of her half-hour broadcasts, one central Virginia TV station reported that Spannaus is the only Democrat going after the Republican Oliver North, instead of attacking her Democratic opponents. A number of radio stations called into Spannaus headquarters looking for further information on North's ties to drug running.

Spannaus's broadcast, entitled "Yes, Virginia, There Can Be an Economic Recovery," concentrates on Spannaus and Lyndon LaRouche discussing the ongoing financial blowout, and on the economic recovery program needed to reverse the collapse. In response to a question about the crime problem, Spannaus blasts North as a "son-of-a-Bush" who, acting under George Bush's direction, ran planeloads of cocaine into the United States as part of the Iran-Contra operation. She asserts that there is abundant public evidence that North was knowingly working with Central American drug-runners.

Spannaus rallies Democrats

A few hours after North's June 4 nomination, Spannaus was a guest along with other candidates and elected officials at the Arlington County Democratic Committee Jefferson-Jackson dinner. In her speech, Spannaus took the lead in rallying the more than 150 Democrats present against that "drug-pusher Ollie North." Spannaus concentrated her remarks on exposing North's Bush-league heritage, and the documentation of his running tons of cocaine for weapons into the United States, under the tutelage of Bush.

"Don't attack Ollie North as 'anti-establishment,'" she emphasized. "That will simply build him up. He's as 'establishment' as they come. North was a virtual agent of George Bush running a secret government in this country, and running in massive amounts of drugs."

Spannaus was very warmly received, including in re-

sponse to the bumper sticker which she shows in every speech—"Don't elect that son-of-a-Bush."

The evening's keynote address had been made by Lt. Gov. Don Beyer, who emphasized the need for unity to defeat North. His remarks indicated the changes in the party relative to the LaRouche wing, when, in the course of discussing each of the four senatorial candidates, he said that Spannaus's presence at the dinner was "a testament to the breadth of our party." After noting his disagreements with what he called "the Lyndon LaRouche philosophy," he went on to praise Spannaus's efforts in the fight against the death penalty in Virginia.

(Last year, Beyer was the running mate of Mary Sue Terry, the Virginia attorney general who ran unsuccessfully for governor. Spannaus consistently attacked Terry for her "judicial barbarism," both on the death penalty and for her vindictive prosecution and jailing of LaRouche associates.)

Spannaus is one of three challengers to incumbent Senator Charles Robb. Also in the race are State Senator Virgil Goode, and Sylvia Clute, a Richmond attorney who specializes in women's and environmental issues. Terry, breaking ranks with most of the party leadership, has endorsed Goode instead of Robb.

North's vulnerability

Both the Democratic and Republican parties are threatened by splits, with the two official nominees likely to face challengers from within their parties running as independents in the November general election. Former Governor Douglas Wilder, a Democrat, is circulating petitions and is threatening to run as an independent if Robb is nominated in the June 14 primary. Wilder's opposition to Robb appears to be based largely on a long-running personal feud.

On the Republican side, North's nomination has already seriously split that party, with prominent Republicans such as former President Ronald Reagan and Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole opposing the North bid. Former Virginia Republican Attorney General Marshall Coleman is poised to enter the race with strong backing from "establishment" Republicans.

North has managed to position himself as the "anti-establishment" outsider—a strange role for someone who was in the middle of a powerful cabal within the White House and National Security Council during the Reagan administration, and one who worked directly under that most "establishment" of political figures: George Bush. Nevertheless, North has somehow managed to rally large sections of the so-called "radical right" behind him, largely due to the efforts of televangelist Pat Robertson and Robertson's "Christian Coalition."

North's political base is well-organized but narrow, and could rapidly fall apart as his crimes, especially his responsibility for bringing massive quantities of drugs into the United States in the mid-1980s, are exposed.