

National News

Spannaus to address local Dem convention

LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus, running for the Democratic Congressional nomination in Northern Virginia's 10th Congressional District, will address the district convention on May 30. Spannaus won four delegates to the convention, in a bewilderingly complex series of local caucuses. She will devote her nominating speech to laying out the reason why, and how, Republican incumbent Frank Wolf can be defeated, despite his 18-year incumbency in a GOP-dominated district.

Former Justice Department lawyer Cornell Brooks has won enough delegates to win the Democratic nomination. But serious questions remain as to whether the party leadership, some of whom fought bitterly to defeat Spannaus, will wage a serious fight to oust Wolf.

The caucus procedure which the Democrats used to pick the convention delegates was a virtually secret process, meant for insiders. All in all, only about 872 people participated in the 14 meetings. The Spannaus campaign mobilized approximately a third of that number, by bringing in many who had been disgruntled with the "private club" process. These people are crucial to a successful drive against Wolf, who acts both locally and internationally on behalf of the British-linked Hunt Country oligarchy in the district.

Spannaus's campaign organized around the reality of the global financial and monetary collapse, and the urgency of implementing LaRouche's New Bretton Woods conception, rather than the shop-worn "hot-button" issues that are keeping voters away by the millions.

Maryland hospitals file complaint against HMOs

On April 21, the Association of Maryland Hospitals and Health Systems (MHA) filed a coordinated complaint on behalf of its hospitals and their patients with the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), regarding

a statewide pattern of "illegal and dangerous" practices by health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed care insurers. MHA says the insurers not only illegally refuse to pay hospitals for providing HMO pre-approved care, they now routinely endanger critically ill patients by "dictating the use of an alternative setting" when documentation shows a patient's condition requires acute hospital care.

MHA charges that in 1997, Maryland's top seven insurers refused to pay at least \$50 million for hospital services which they had previously pre-approved; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland (BCBS) alone denied payments of \$30 billion (up from \$11 million denied in 1996). The insurers are also between 80-85 days in arrears in paying hospitals for some \$1.2 billion in services, forcing hospitals to borrow money at high rates just to meet payroll. Moreover, the HMOs are illegally demanding that the hospitals make retroactive paybacks for HMO-approved services from three years ago.

"Length of stay" formulas, cooked up by an accounting firm, are another favorite method for insurers to deny payment, explained an MHA representative to *EIR*: BCBS denied payments for all or part of the care received by 22% of BCBS patients hospitalized in 1997. Altogether, BCBS refused to pay for 29,808 days of inpatient care that Maryland's 50 acute care hospitals delivered in 1997.

Starr's security stripping will kill a President

Despite warnings by the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Judge Norma Holloway Johnson sided with Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, ruling on May 22 that he may question Secret Service agents about what they saw and heard around President Clinton. The Secret Service had bluntly warned the court, that forcing agents to testify will result in the assassination of a President, because a President will keep a distance from his protective guards when he does not want a conversation overheard. Holloway rationalized that there was no formal precedent for asserting a "protective function privilege," and that "the court is not ultimately persuaded that a President would put his life at risk

for fear that a Secret Service agent might be called to testify before a grand jury."

Tim McCarthy, one of the agents who took a bullet intended for President Reagan, during the assassination attempt in 1981, told NBC's "Meet the Press" on May 24: "The proximity to the President is the key to protecting him. If you take a look at the events of March 30, '81, we had that proximity. If you take a look at assassination attempts that have been successful—Rabin in Israel, the Pope [sic], even President Kennedy—they did not have proximity at that time. Proximity is developed through trust and confidence and the feeling of the protectees that they have confidentiality in regards to their private lives." He added later: "It has happened before, it's going to happen again, and I believe this ruling will expose the Secret Service protectees and others to a greater risk than need be the case."

Clinton hails passage of Irish peace vote

President Clinton expressed satisfaction on receiving the news that the referendum on Ireland's "Good Friday" peace accord was voted up on May 22: "Today we are rejoicing at the news from across the Atlantic. The people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have decisively approved the April 10th peace accord. . . .

"I salute the leaders who stood for hope against fear, the future against the past, unity against division. Most of all, I congratulate the Irish people for having the courage and wisdom to vote for a brighter future for their children.

"As of today, peace is no longer a dream, it is a reality. You have indeed joined hope to history."

The President reiterated his commitment to foster economic investment in Northern Ireland. The United States, he said, working through the International Fund for Ireland, will help "attract new investment to create new factories, . . . jobs, and establish new centers of learning to prepare for the 21st century." He concluded: "Today's vote is a beacon to peoples around the globe in places where strife prevails and peace seems remote. You have set an example for the world."

'Olson salon' mistress on Nickles's payroll

According to an exposé in the May 21 issue of the Capitol Hill daily *Roll Call*, Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.) has allowed Barbara Olson to remain on his payroll while she makes the media rounds attacking President Clinton on behalf of Barbara Ledeen's Independent Women's Forum (IWF). Nickles calls it a "leave of absence."

Just how "independent" the IWF is, is put in doubt by the fact that it is financed by Richard Mellon Scaife, the piggybank for the "Get Clinton" effort. Olson and her husband, Theodore, have been coordinating Kenneth Starr's inquisition against the President out of a weekly salon held in their posh home in Great Falls, Virginia. The gathering reportedly includes Starr, Federal Appeals Court Judge Lawrence Silberman, Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, *Wall Street Journal* editor Robert Bartley, *American Spectator* editor Emmett Tyrrell, and former Federal Judge Robert Bork, among others.

Alexis Herman is latest 'Get Clinton' target

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman expressed her surprise on May 12 that Attorney General Janet Reno had asked for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate her. "I'm obviously very disappointed and extremely baffled by this decision," Herman told a special White House press briefing. "I've done everything humanly possible that I could do to cooperate with the Justice Department: There's not one document that they've asked me for that I did not provide; I was available to them personally; I interceded personally to ensure that they had all of my financial records from my banks."

The probe centers on nebulous allegations of "influence peddling" and "soliciting illegal campaign contributions," while Herman was director of the White House Office of Public Liaison. "In their own filing today, the Justice Department said that neither they

nor the FBI concluded that I have done anything wrong, and that is because I have not. These allegations have been false from the very beginning. I can only assume that the Attorney General felt that she had to make this decision because of the statute," she said.

The large number of minority officials under investigation in the Clinton administration (Henry Cisneros, Mike Espy, Hazel O'Leary, the late Ron Brown, and now Herman) has raised the question of racial targeting. Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder sidestepped the question of the FBI's "Operation Fruehmenschen," directed against Black elected officials, when asked by a reporter on May 12 if "there's a possibility that race is playing a part in some of these investigations."

Clark compares U.S. prisons with Rwanda's

In his foreword to the forthcoming second volume of *Frontiers of Justice*, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark wrote:

"The most revealing and damning insight into the real purpose and effect of our prison policies can be seen from the size of the [prison] population and its racial content. Today, in California, 40% of the African-American male population between the ages of 18 and 27 is in prison, or on post-conviction parole, or supervised release. Where in history, or in the world today, have 40% of so large a part of an entire segment of the population been imprisoned? Consider Rwanda, only a few years away from a genocide in which it is claimed 1 million out of a population of 7 million died. In most parts of the country today, it is wracked with insurrection and armed guerrilla warfare. The victorious Tutsi people, representing less than 15% of the nation, claim to hold 108,000 male Hutus in prison. While the ages range from pre-teens to septuagenarians, the majority are probably between 18 and 27. The male Hutu population between 18 and 27 is about 10 times the number in that age group who are in prison. California has imprisoned four times (40% compared to 10%) the percentage of military service age group that war-torn Rwanda has."

DON ERET, a farmer and former Nebraska State Senator, running as a LaRouche Democrat, won over 29,000 votes in his unopposed bid in Nebraska's Democratic primary on May 12. He will now face 10-term incumbent Doug Bereuter in the First Congressional District, which includes the state capital, Lincoln.

PENNSYLVANIA issued a new extradition order on May 20 for Ira Einhorn, who has been living under high-level protection in France. In the 1970s, Einhorn, a major figure in the "Earth Day" bacchanalia, was charged with the grisly murder of his girlfriend in Philadelphia. The state has now passed a law guaranteeing him a new trial, after France, last year, refused extradition because he had been convicted *in absentia*.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR Jim Gilmore has reappointed Ronald Angelone to run the state prison system. Angelone, hired in 1994 to bring police-state methods to the Virginia gulag, now oversees the state's largest agency, with more than 12,000 employees and a budget of \$588 million. During his tenure, the inmate population expanded from about 17,000 to 25,423 as of May 20.

INTERARMS HEIRESS Susan Cummings was sentenced to 60 days in jail on May 21 by a Hunt Country jury in Warrenton, Virginia, for the murder last September of her boyfriend, Argentine polo star Roberto Villegas. The Interarms fortune of her late father, Sam Cummings, was amassed shipping weapons to terrorists, revolutionaries, drug-traffickers, and others, often under the direction of the dirty networks of British Intelligence, and their American intelligence collaborators.

BRANDEIS University in Waltham, Massachusetts, a Jewish liberal arts university, awarded an honorary doctorate to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on May 24, for his efforts to deepen German-American and German-Jewish relations.