

Critics to North: 'Go west!'

Note contributions are from California

By Laurie Kellman
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Virginia Senate candidates Oliver North and Sen. Charles S. Robb are getting so much money from outside the state they ought to consider running for office elsewhere, critics of the two front-runners say.

The out-of-state contributions collected by Mr. North — more than three-fourths of his \$8 million — have even inspired song.

At an Arlington news conference yesterday, members of a national group called Clean Up Congress sang these lyrics to the Beach Boys tune "California Girls":

"The Midwest farmers' daughters helped me buy the party nod.

"And the Texas oil men gave me so much, I have more money than God."

Members of the group said Mr. North is beholden to out-of-state groups that have given him most of his money and suggested he run for office in California, where they say he has raised more money than in Virginia.

"There is not a dollar in the world that doesn't have a string attached to it," said Vicky Beasley, a member of Clean Up Congress who will be a junior at the University of Virginia. "Politicians respond to the wishes of the people who fund them."

But members of the 4-year-old group, which says it is non-partisan, backed away from earlier criticism of Mr. Robb, the Democratic nominee, who has collected most of his \$2.5 million from outside Virginia.

"We were critical of him earlier on, but now he's doing that to keep a level playing field with North," said David Abbott, assistant director of the group and a self-described Republican. "His past record shows going out of state is not his preferred way of doing things."

The North camp wasn't buying that explanation.

"Clean Up Congress should change its name to Clean Out Conservatives," North spokesman Mark Merritt said. "Everyone knows they're a front for left-wing groups."

Besides, Mr. North said at a campaign appearance, Virginians don't care where the money comes from that gets him elect-

ed. He said voters are more concerned about whether he will do what he promises.

"There are more Virginians who have given to this campaign than the other three combined," Mr. North said.

Though Clean Up Congress did not bash Mr. Robb for his out-of-state funding, independent candidate and longtime Robb rival L. Douglas Wilder did.

As part of a three-day media blitz against Mr. Robb's contributions from out-of-state political action committees, Mr. Wilder, who has collected about \$66,000 from individual contributors and has vowed to reject PAC money, said yesterday:

"This election is not about Florida, California or New York; it is about Virginia. To take money from geographic interest groups, some of whom compete with Virginia for funding resources, is to ignore Virginia's interests."

"This is the third day in a row he's tried to make a virtue out of failure," Robb spokesman Bert Rohrer said. "It simply underscores the fact that he's not able to raise sufficient money to compete."

The debate flew as the candidates strove to raise money.

The fourth contender for Mr. Robb's seat, independent J. Marshall Coleman, was the guest of honor at a \$1,000-per-person fund-raiser last night at the Watergate apartment of Sen. John W. Warner, Virginia Republican.

Mr. Wilder tonight attends a fund-raiser thrown by Richmond business leaders.

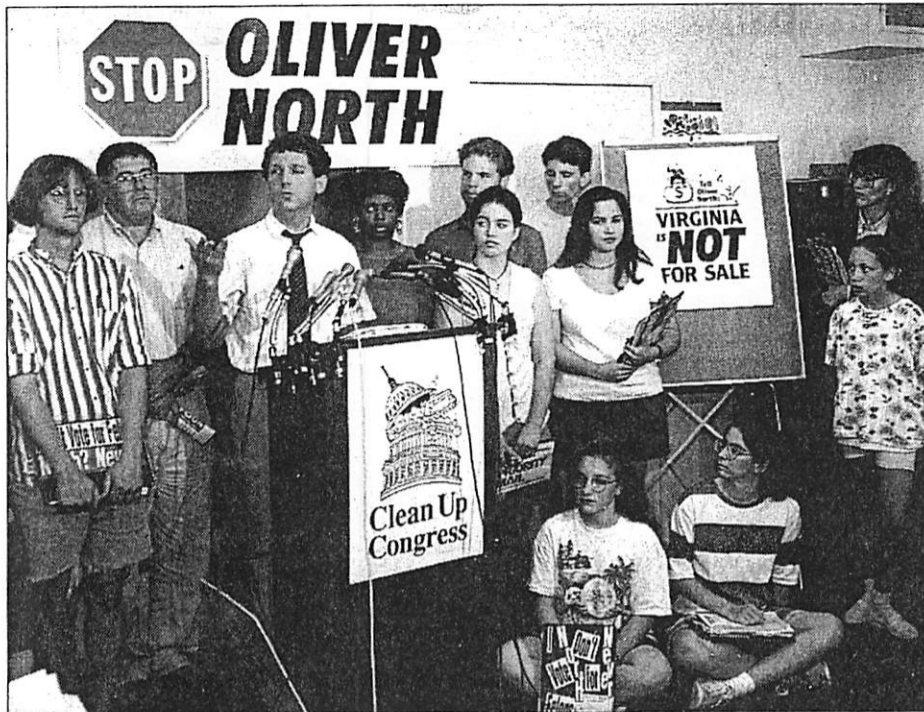
On Aug. 9, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta will be the featured guest at Mr. Robb's \$5,000-a-plate fund-raiser.

Yesterday, Clean Up Congress displayed a one-way plane ticket to California and campaign registration documents from that state for Mr. North.

Clean Up Congress' director, Woody Holton, said his nonprofit political action committee has received about \$250,000, including \$140,000 for its anti-North campaign.

Also yesterday, Mr. Coleman said Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman should resign over his role in meetings related to the Whitewater affair.

Mr. Altman has been accused of inappropriate efforts on behalf of President Clinton during an investigation into the Whitewater Development Corp. and its ties to the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association.



Woody Holton, backed by other Clean Up Congress members, denounces Oliver North's out-of-state cash. AP

Wilder attacks GOP foe

Says North aided drug dealers

By Laurie Kellman
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

L. Douglas Wilder yesterday accused Oliver North of assisting drug dealers in the 1980s when he was co-ordinating U.S. aid to the contras trying to overturn the Marxist government in Nicaragua.

"The evidence continues to mount that Oliver North did not care about fighting drugs throughout the 1980s and used his position to assist drug dealers and to thwart anti-drug investigations," said Mr. Wilder, who is running as an independent in the four-man race.

It was the first major attack on Mr. North by Mr. Wilder, who had pledged to focus on his own 24-year record in politics.

"It's an absolutely irresponsible charge by an obviously desperate campaign that is hungry for a headline — any headline," said Dan McLagan, a spokesman for Mr. North's campaign. "He's trying to turn Ollie's record of fighting narcotics on its ear."

Mr. Wilder pointed to two "widely reported" incidents as evidence of Mr. North's political opportunism.

He cited an Associated Press report last month that quoted a former federal agent as saying

Mr. North knew that mercenary pilots he had hired to assist the Contras were also smuggling large shipments of cocaine into the United States.

Mr. Wilder also cited the July 28, 1988, congressional testimony of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Ron Caffrey. Mr. Caffrey testified that he turned down Mr. North's request in 1984 to deliver \$1.5 million to the Contras aboard a Managua-bound plane flown by an informant in a cocaine sting.

At the time, Mr. Caffrey testified, Mr. North urged the DEA to go public with its undercover investigation of the Medellin drug cartel to influence an upcoming congressional vote on aid to the Contras. Mr. Caffrey said he disagreed with Mr. North because going public would endanger the informant's life.

Shortly thereafter, a story about the sting appeared in The Washington Times. After release of the information for that July 17, 1984, article, "the entire operation was compromised," Mr. Wilder said.

Further testimony by DEA undercover agent Ernest Jacobsen said the CIA had planned to leak information on the sting. Mr. Caffrey testified that he briefed Mr. North, then a National Security

Council aide, and CIA employee Dewey Clarridge, on the plan.

The informant was murdered by the Medellin cartel in 1986.

Through a spokesman last night, Mr. Wilder refused to say whether he held Mr. North responsible for the informant's death, but his prepared statement said Mr. North "leaked word of the mission to The Washington Times, blowing the operation's cover."

Through a spokesman, Mr. North said he was not the source of the story and was not responsible in any way for the failed undercover operation or the death of the informant.

"We really don't know enough about the [informant's] case to make a comment on whether Oliver North was responsible for his death or not," said Wilder spokesman Dan Conley. "However, Col. North's conduct in this case clearly makes him unfit for office."

Said Mr. McLagan: "Virginians are tired of the slander of the month by whichever candidate is furthest behind in the polls. Let's just get on with talking about the issues that are important to the state."



Wilder