

# LAMMERS CANDIDACY

Bernie Lammers, new member of the RIA, whom people may remember from the January meeting and his talk about the Ladva pairing project, has announced that he is running for Congress against David Martin. Needless to say, it is against the editorial policy of this august journal to dabble in politics; however, in the interests of better informing the electorate, we agreed to present his views. What follows is condensed from his ten-page statement of candidacy.

"I am running for this office to give people in the district a voice they have been denied and to offer real and committed leadership. David Martin has consistently supported the more destructive policies of the Reagan Administration, and in so doing has virtually abandoned the people of northern New York.

"He has voted for the milk tax, for Reagan's tax giveaways to the rich, for every weapons system Reagan has asked for, against the nuclear weapons freeze, against extending unemployment benefits and emergency assistance to the unemployed, against public works legislation, against working people 14 of 17 times in 1983, against the environment 77% of the time in 1983, wrong on issues critical to senior citizens 89% of the time. He opposes the ERA. He supports Reagan's economic policies, which have placed more strain on the American people than at any time since the Depression. He favors Reagan's militaristic approach to foreign policy that has led to less world security. Further, he has consistently voted against the programs which would help our farmers, laborers, senior citizens, and unemployed. A look at Martin's financial disclosure statements shows that over half of his contributions come from big business and defense contractors, mostly from outside the district and state. This means that when he votes, his eye is not on the citizens of this district, but on his wealthy contributors elsewhere.

"So what would I do if I were to represent this District in Washington? First, I will work for a nuclear weapons freeze and to restart nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviet Union, as well as on the banning of nerve gas and space-based weapons. With regard to Central America, we must cease our support of right-wing dictatorships and our interference with Nicaragua. We must promote real land reform and equitable economic development programs.

"In domestic affairs, the first issue is the economy and the huge deficit. We must do two immediate things: reform the tax code to eliminate giveaways to the rich, and streamline the military budget. If we close the tax loopholes and return to an honest and progressive tax system and cut the absurd waste in the military budget, we can then cut taxes in half for the average working person and still raise as much revenue as we do now. To restore the integrity of the family farm, we need to lower interest rates, replace the PIK program with sound policies, and end the milk tax. We need to restore the effectiveness of the EPA, to enforce worker health and safety regulations, to take action on acid rain now, and to resume development of alternative sources of energy. I would work to establish public health insurance programs.

"In short, I wish to repudiate the philosophy and policies of Ronald Reagan and David Martin, to restore a humane attitude and good sense to the federal government, and to properly represent the people of this district, as Martin has failed to do. Please send your comments, criticisms, and ideas to Bernie Lammers for Congress, P.O. Box 68, Canton, NY 13617."