

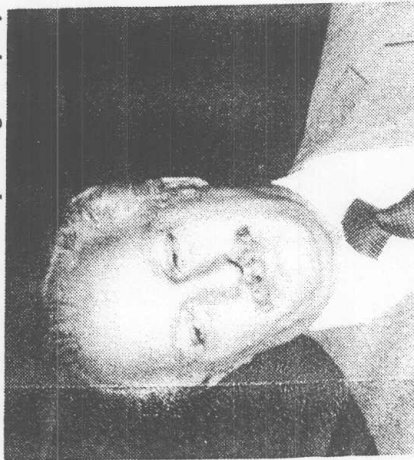
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opinion

Fossella Dumped By Dems

For several weeks after his defeat in November, 1985, Frank Fossella was bitterly complaining to friends about how he was hung out to dry by the Democratic Party and Nick LaPorte. He was never really specific, but an examination of campaign records filed by Susan Molinari finally offers us a glimpse into exactly how Frank was done in by LaPorte and others professing to care about the party.

Among the contributions given to Molinari are \$500 from the printing company



Frank Fossella.

owned by the family of Brooklyn boss Meade Esposito; \$2,500 from Nick Pasorella, a New York City cop who serves as a "bodyguard" for Council Majority Leader Peter Vallone (He owns Central Security Systems and did LaPorte a big

favor by hiring his son after he was forced out of his job as Koch's Deputy Personnel Director); \$200 from Richard Biaggi, the son of Bronx Congressman Mario Biaggi. This must have really stung. Vito Fossella ran Biaggi's 1973 campaign on Staten Island; Mario showed up at Frank's fundraiser at the Shalimar in the fall of 1985, threw his arms around Frank and Vito, and proclaimed his love for the family. Little did Frank know that a long dagger was being sharpened for his back. Coastal Dry Dock, which prospered as the result of the Democratic clout in Congress, kicked in \$500. She accepted \$2,000 from the Wedtech Corporation, which was a virtual ward of the Bronx Democrats.

This is not the first time LaPorte doublecrossed one of his candidates. He did it to Jack Murphy in 1980, Leo Zeferetti in 1982 and Kevin Sheehy in 1984. His seedy alliance with the Conservative Party, and his sabotaging of Democratic campaigns against Robert Stranieri and Molinari are only now coming to light. It should be clear that LaPorte, Molinari and Conservative Since he lost by 116 votes, the Democratic dough that went to Susan's campaign might have helped Frank buy some advertising to change the minds of the 59 voters he needed to win.

Who will speak for the dead?

The compassionate administration of Mario Cuomo has a new scheme up its forever publicity-conscious sleeve. In a move that ranks with celebrating the closing of Dachau, Cuomo's mental health experts have decided to hold "closing ceremonies" for Willowbrook State School on Sept. 17. Presumably, if the Cuomo speech writers run true to form, the Governor will deliver a tearjerking treatise about how he's changed the way we deal with developmentally disabled. (We now place them in smaller, impersonal institutions instead of mammoth hell holes like Willowbrook. Some mental health experts argue that there's not much of a change in the care.) Cuomo will talk about the "family of New York" and praise those who have had the courage to force the state of New York into drastically changing its obstinate ways.

But what is there to celebrate? That we treated 4,000 adults and children worse than cattle? That Staten Islanders, the local press, and Governors Rockefeller and Wilson did nothing after Bobby Kennedy exposed the dump as a prison in 1965? That human beings were used as guinea pigs by "doctors" who were injecting hepatitis into their bodies; that children died, as a the result of neglect, beatings, torture and other assorted degradations? That no one cared

Around the Isle with Jim Callaghan

about any of this until Geraldo Rivera splashed it all over our television screens? That parents had to sign papers agreeing to these experiments or their children would not be admitted to an already overcrowded institution?

I am wondering who thought up this putrid display and whether, like they do in the Olympics, a farewell song will be played over the loudspeakers? And while they're closing the books on Willowbrook, will Cuomo special investigator Nick Spinelli try to find out who allowed a \$200,000 carousel to be sold to a private antique collector, and replaced it with a cheap fiberglass model that cost less than \$20,000? Will Cuomo ask the crowd of administrators who was responsible for his gross display of insensitivity?