

expressed confidence that Congress would do absolutely nothing to impede the Board's plan to shut down the hospital. The Control Board, he said, "is authorized to act in lieu of the Council if it so decides. We are fully empowered to execute and begin the process of implementation of the contract." He confirmed that May 1 is the "planned start date for the contract," but added that it wasn't "an unequivocal, *drop dead* date."

As to the role of Congress, Dixon arrogantly noted that the Board would notify the relevant Congressional committees "of our intent to go forward," as the enabling legislation requires, but added that the Control Board was confident that Congress would not get in their way. "The likelihood that they [Congress] will do anything more, than simply accept our notification and indicate their acknowledgment of our intention, is unlikely — it's not impossible, but it's *highly* unlikely."

A spokesman for the FDR-PAC, the political action committee associated with Lyndon LaRouche that has been directing a nationwide mobilization to force the Congress to stop the hospital's closing, as part of Congress's sworn obligation to defend the General Welfare, responded to Dixon's remarks. "We don't think the Control Board's arrogant confidence is necessarily grounded in reality. Based on the intensity of the national opposition to the shutdown of D.C. General, we have every reason to expect that Congress will stand up to Wall Street's Katharine Graham—actually, we call her, appropriately, KKK-Katie Graham—and the attempt to dictatorially implement a Nazi 'Negro Removal' policy in the nation's capital. If they don't, it will immediately result in the deaths of many people, who will be denied the speedy quality care that D.C. General now provides to anyone who comes through its doors, whether they are rich or poor, black or white, insured or uninsured. But, even more important, if Congress were to fail to act, that failure would constitute a conscious choice to allow the imposition of a fascist policy by KKK-Katie Graham's and Wall Street's Financial Control Board, *against the fundamental intent of U.S. law, and of the legally elected government of the region.* If the Congress were to submit to that, they might as well pour into the streets of Washington, D.C. and publicly commit self-castration."

As of this writing, it is clear that the Control Board is feeling the heat. The Board has called a public meeting for 2 p.m. on April 30, in the same building and at the same time that the Council hearing was held. The stated purpose of the meeting is to consider: 1) actions regarding the provision of health-care services for indigent residents of the District; 2) the future role of the Public Benefit Corp. (which operates D.C. General) in the provision of those services; and 3) the recent supplemental appropriations bill enacted by the D.C. Council, which provided \$21 million to keep the hospital operating. A Board spokesman said it is unlikely that the Control Board would take any action to execute the contract before the meeting.

Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad

'A Movement Based On Love'

The following remarks were made at a rally of the Coalition to Save D.C. General Hospital, at Union Temple Baptist Church, in Washington, D.C., on April 18. Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, one of the founders and leaders of the Coalition to Save D.C. General Hospital, introduced the historic meeting.

Let me just say that this is the tenth town meeting, the 11th town meeting, and you all are to be commended for sticking in on something that is going much longer than I, certainly, thought it would go. But this is becoming a movement. And we are noticing all over the city that the spirit of this movement is spreading among the people, far and wide. Some of you have been here from the very beginning. How many of you were at the very first town meeting, 11 weeks ago? Okay, and you're here now. And haven't you learned a lot? Because the format that we use for these town meetings, was the format that was developed in the Civil Rights movement and in the anti-war movement, because the government was putting out a lot of propaganda. They were suppressing information. They knew that this is a government of, by, and for the people, but they know that the people are no better than the information that they have at their disposal. You can't stand up and be a citizen if you're in the dark, if you don't know what's going on. If it's a shell game, and you can't see where the action is. And so, back in the '60s, they developed this technique called a "teach-in," where people would come, and just ordinary citizens, people like you and me, who had done a little research here, a little research there, we would put our two cents in, and by the time you added up all of those two cents's, then you really started having something of value. And before it was all over, ordinary men, ordinary women, ordinary citizens of this country became the experts on civil rights, became the experts on voting rights, became the experts on human rights, became the experts on the War in Vietnam, because they had done their homework. . . .

Now, this is a movement that is based on love. There's nothing hateful about anything that is being said or done in this place. This is a house of God. Mr. Omer's [Mayor Williams' chief-of-staff, recently dismissed-ed.] opinion notwithstanding. What kind of love-movement is this? Well, first of all, we love God. We love God. And this movement is composed of people of all faiths. Some are Muslims, some are Christians, some are Jewish, some are of other faiths. All the denominations. Everybody is here, because we understand one thing: the only way that we can show our love for God is to demonstrate it to one another. The only way that we can serve a God who is above need, is to serve our fellow man. And so that's

what we understand D.C. General to be.

D.C. General is not a hospital that is set up on the idea of making money. D.C. General is a hospital that is set up for service to the poor, and since we've got a whole lot of poor people: Jesus said, "the poor, you have with you always." So that means you *always* have to have a public hospital that doesn't mind taking care of the poor. We're interested in health care, not wealth care. The wealthy people, they can build their condos someplace else. We're not against them having condos, hotels, marinas, and anything else they want to build. They can build all of those things, *but not on the site of D.C. General Hospital!* That's what we're saying: Go somewhere else with that! D.C. General Hospital is sacred ground. It is consecrated for the care of the poor and the indigent and those who have no other options. We cannot allow a policy or plan to go forward that is so mean-spirited, that it would deny the poor the only option that they have.

Kevin Chavous

'We Will Fund the Hospital'

Remarks by Kevin Chavous, Member of Washington, D.C. City Council:

Thank you. Y'all make me feel right welcome here. First of all, to our panelists, our host Reverend Wilson, I heard Dr. Speed, Dr. Elders, all the panelists, Reverend Bevel, whom I've known for many years, Dr. Alim Muhammad. Years ago, you need to know, that Dr. Muhammad and I co-sponsored a health fair in Ward 7, where we talked about some of these various issues. Let's give all of them a round of applause for their leadership.

I will be brief, because we do have an excellent panel assembled here. I do want to follow up on one thing that Dr. Muhammad alluded to, and that is, where things stand. I want to give you some feedback on that. Folks, I am so proud of my colleagues on the City Council. When all 13 of us, *all 13*, and I'm gonna tell you: We don't have no 13-0 votes. We just don't have that. But when 13 of the members of the City Council all stand together, in the face of *intense opposition*, from Capitol Hill, from the Mayor's office, from the Control Board, from members of the business community, in the wake of all that opposition, for my colleagues to say, "No. We're not going to shut this hospital down; and not only are we going to vote to keep the hospital open, we're going to put our money where our mouths are, Mr. Mayor. So we will fund the hospital for the next year." And that's what we did last week.

Now, where it stands is: The Mayor can veto that action, and it takes nine votes to override the veto. Well, we've got

those votes. And then, once we override—and we will, 13-0, we will override—once that happens, it is in the hands of the Control Board. And you know what a member of the media said to me—and then I'll sit down. I just want to share this with you. He said, "Now, Councilman, don't you feel that you're threatening home rule, by doing something Congress doesn't want you to do?"

I said, "Well, what are they going to do? Take away our right to vote?" "What are they going to do, take away our budget autonomy? Our legislative autonomy? What are they going to do, take away our voting members of Congress? I mean, what are they going to do? Put in a Control Board to oversee what we do?" You know what, under these circumstances, I'll take my chances with Congress. I'll take my chances. Sometimes when your back's up against the wall, you ain't got nowhere else to go but forward! And to me, this vote is a vote on moving forward. And we're going to continue that fight. God bless each and every one of you, and we are going to *win*, 'cause we are *right*.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders

'Don't Be Afraid of Failure'

Remarks by Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former Surgeon General of the United States:

Thank you very much. . . . I was asked by the media tonight, "Why did you come? It's all over, it's all done." Well, first of all, I came because I was asked. I came because I was asked about something that I believe in. All of you know that if I don't believe in something, I don't run around pretending I do. My mom told me, "Always speak the truth." She said, "The day you see the truth, and cease to speak the truth, is the day you begin to die." And all of you know, I'm going to live forever.

I bet the only political group in this country that's ever had a 13-0 vote, or a 100-0 vote, related to health care was the D.C. Council. You know how we are, you know we believe in having health care for the haves, and sick care for the have-nots. If we start talking about prisons, jails, we always go out and vote to tax to build a jail. But when we start talking about food, start talking about hospitals, start talking about health care for the poor, where are we? "We don't have the money." But we've always got plenty of money to build another jail, to send another young person out to the prison. Since 1980, we've spent far more money on jails than we've spent on schools. And we wonder why we have so many young, black men in prison, where very often we're sending them to schools and they graduate from high schools with diplomas that they can't read. Shoes that light up when they walk, and a brain