

Fight to Save D.C. General Hospital Takes On Evil 'Shareholder Values'

by Dennis Speed

"For what doth it profit a man, if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Since the beginning of the year, three emergency town meetings—"citizens' assemblies"—have been held in Washington, D.C. to address the national emergency embodied in the decision to close the capital's only public full-service hospital: D.C. General. The tone for the meetings was set during the Jan. 3 Washington seminar/webcast by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., during LaRouche's exchange with Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, Minister of Health of the Nation of Islam, regarding the impending shutdown of D.C. General, which he described as one of the nation's oldest and best medical facilities, and the only hospital serving well over 80,000 Washingtonians who lack medical insurance.

LaRouche replied: "First of all, I think you have to take this as a paradigmatic case, because it's the nation's capital. Therefore, what we do in the nation's capital tells us what we are doing to the nation as a whole, or more. What I would wish

were done, would be to repeal the HMO [health maintenance organization] act, and restore the former act, the Hill-Burton, which mandated the purpose of medical care."

Speaking to 100 people during a town meeting on Feb. 8, LaRouche activist Dr. Ernest Schapiro said, "Hill-Burton mandated that, following an inventory by the Federal and local governments of available health facilities, priorities were established to ensure that all Americans would be, as soon as possible, given access to a full range of health care, by building institutions with the necessary hospital beds in every county in the country." Dr. Schapiro and Dr. Muhammad have assembled a growing national circle of physicians, as an emergency task-force to reverse the criminalization of U.S. medicine. Dr. Schapiro continued, that, today, the 1946 Hill-Burton Act is virtually a revolutionary idea, because it is a direct challenge to the "shareholder/slaveholder values" cultural matrix that has come increasingly into the ascendancy with the Confederate, anti-general welfare, economic policy bias of the new administration in Washington.



A demonstration to save D.C. General Hospital on Jan. 11. The shutdown of the hospital would leave hundreds of thousands of people without medical care.