

KKK-Katie Graham's Armies of the Night

by Edward Spannaus

As a crucial part of the battle to save D.C. General Hospital, the LaRouche movement has escalated its exposure of the forces behind the shutting of the hospital and the overall "Negro Removal" project in Washington, D.C. These forces are under the command of *Washington Post* owner KKK-Katie Graham and the banking and real estate forces allied with her, who in turn deploy a small army of local officials and activists, mostly African-Americans, to do their dirty work for them.

At the weekly town meeting of the Coalition to Save D.C. General Hospital on June 13, the regional leader of the Schiller Institute, Dennis Speed, presented some of the results of the devastating research he has conducted on one of KKK-Katie's key front-groups, "D.C. Agenda," which was created in 1994 by the Federal City Council—the secretive, behind-the-scenes organization which was founded by KKKatie's late husband Phil Graham in 1954, and which has been the real ruling power in the District for almost half a century. A summary of this research has just been published in a new broadsheet entitled "LaRouche Declares War on KKK-Katie Graham, and Her Whole Klan!" now being widely circulated throughout D.C. (see p. 63).

Speed described D.C. Agenda as a key component of KKK-Katie's "Armies of the Night," and its president James Gibson as "one of the devils and devils' helpers" who, as shadow to Mayor Marion Barry, promoted the plans developed as early as 1974 for the clearing out of the poor and the shutdown of D.C. General. Speed sketched the career of D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, who got his start, out of Harvard, working to shut down Boston City Hospital! And Speed compared D.C. Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton—now feverishly working to block any action in Congress to save D.C. General—to the African slave traders who sold their own people into slavery.

At a press conference and rally the next day, June 14, at

Judiciary Square, in front of the building which houses the offices of the Mayor and Control Board, Schiller Institute leader Lynne Speed reported that the most frequently asked question concerning the shutdown of D.C. General Hospital has been: "What is behind this? What is motivating this? If it's not cost, if it's not access, if it's not medical care, why are the Control Board, the Mayor, and Norton pushing to close this hospital?"

She went on to say that the real question is not only "why," but "who" is behind this. *EIR* Counterintelligence Editor Jeffrey Steinberg detailed the background of a number of the key players in the D.C. "Negro Removal" scheme, such as Eleanor Holmes Norton, who was one of New York Mayor John Lindsay's kapos in the period leading up to the original Big MAC Control Board in New York City in 1975; Ivan Walks, head of the D.C. Health Department, who was hired by Mayor Williams out of the HMO apparatus of George W. Bush's financial angel, Richard Rainwater; and James Gibson.

A New Civil Rights Movement

At the previous evening's town meeting, State Rep. Erik Fleming of Jackson, Mississippi, told the assembled activists that "we have to step this campaign up to another level."

Representative Fleming, who was in Washington to meet with members of Congress about D.C. General, said he has been telling them that if the Control Board is successful in shutting down public health care in Washington, "next, they are coming to where you live; 'coming to a theater near you.'" He explained that if the privatization and destruction of health care can be carried out in the nation's capital, even those states which have so far continued to support a public health system, like Louisiana, will find themselves on the chopping block.

The meeting also heard reports on the rising death toll resulting from the closing of D.C. General to ambulance traf-

fic—now estimated at at least 13—and the devastation that the privatization is wreaking on public health in the District. Coalition leader Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad emphasized that D.C. General has always been the keystone of Washington’s entire health-care system. He said, for example, that many of the patients he sees at his clinic, need blood tests, CAT scans, dental work, and other procedures, for which they can’t pay, and in the past, he has been able to refer them to D.C. General, and also get the immediate cooperation of D.C. General’s doctors, who will fax him the results for follow-up on these patients. “I don’t know what I will do now. These are people who can’t pay \$1,200 for a CAT scan.”

The meeting was also addressed by two renowned veterans of the 1960s civil rights struggles. Amelia Boynton Robinson, the voting rights heroine of Selma, Alabama, who has been lobbying the Congress and the D.C. Council all week, said the enthusiasm and optimism of the Coalition gatherings, reminded her of the meetings of civil rights activists in Selma over 35 years ago.

The Rev. James Bevel, who was the head of Direct Action for the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the early 1960s, presented an incisive discussion of organizing, which literally had the whole audience on the edge of their chairs, including his account of things he had learned from King. He compared his experiences from the intense fights of the 1960s for voting rights, with the problem now facing the nation over D.C. General and related issues of the general welfare.

Lawsuit Heard in Federal Court

As well as being fought on the streets, and in the halls of Congress, the battle to save D.C. General is also being fought out in Federal court, where two members of the D.C. City Council—Kevin Chavous (D) and David Catania (R)—have brought a lawsuit seeking to overturn the Control Board’s illegal and unconstitutional actions when it privatized D.C.’s public health system on April 30.

Over 100 activists and observers filled the courtroom at a June 8 hearing on the lawsuit, with dozens more in line outside. Judge Richard Robertson had scheduled an hour and one-half for the oral arguments, but in fact they extended for two and one-half hours. Attorneys for the two Councilmen told the court that “people are not getting health care, and ambulances are roaming the city because of rolling blackouts of emergency rooms.”

The Councilmen’s attorneys argued that the Control Board acted unlawfully in two respects: First, that it cannot enter into a contract of this magnitude (some \$100 million), and second, that since February, the Control Board has been in its “sunset” phase, as a result of the District having met all of its financial objectives, as set by Congress; therefore, the Control Board can only carry out “winding down” activities. They also contend that the Control Board’s action violated the Constitutional rights of the Council members themselves.

The Councilmen asked the judge to void the contract for the takeover of D.C. General, to void the enabling legislation

enacted by the Control Board, to reopen D.C. General Hospital, and to appoint a Special Master to oversee a 30-day transition, handing D.C. General back to the Public Benefit Corp. which formerly ran D.C. General and the city’s public health system.

The judge took the motions under advisement, and did not indicate when he will issue a ruling. However, he did issue an order on June 13 officially accepting the *amicus curiae* brief filed last week on behalf of 131 elected officials, religious and civil rights leaders, and other prominent citizens (see *EIR* June 15, 2001). The plaintiffs in the case (D.C. Council members Kevin Chavous and David Catania) had consented to the filing of the *amicus* brief, but the defendants (the Control Board, the D.C. Government, and Greater Southeast Community Hospital) had refused to consent to its filing.

As of this writing, the court has not ruled.

The Case of James Gibson

by Dennis Speed

From the new broadsheet being circulated in Washington, D.C. by the LaRouche in 2004 Presidential campaign.

D.C. Agenda’s “mission statement” proudly boasts that “D.C. Agenda was launched in 1994 by the Federal City Council as a way to help the District of Columbia confront its fiscal, political, social, and economic crises.” The Federal City Council was founded in the 1950s by Philip Graham to control every aspect of political life in D.C., and is composed of 150 of the most powerful real estate “developers, banks, law firms, and corporations” in the District. D.C. Agenda, simply put, is a servants’ shack on KKK-Katie Graham’s plantation. Funders of D.C. Agenda include the Philip Graham Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation, etc.

James Gibson was the Deputy Administrator of the Office of Planning for the [Mayor] Marion Barry administration in the late ’70s and ’80s, and, as such, was a collaborator with, if not an architect of, Negro Removal. His idea was to “get in on the action” of the redesign of Washington, not fight it. “You accept the political transaction as legitimate. Let the developers build, and use the commercial tax revenues for social purposes.” As a result of his real estate triumphs, Gibson was appointed to head the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation, 1982-86. Eugene Meyer, was of course, the father of Katharine Graham.

After a seven-year stint at the Rockefeller Foundation, Gibson, together with former President and Trilateral Commission man-servant Jimmy Carter, causes “D.C. Agenda” to take shape. Great embarrassment was registered when it was discovered that the “empowerment” schemes of the 1980s had brought no benefits whatsoever to the general D.C. popu-