

## Ambassador Flynn: Stop Waging War on the Poor!

*Raymond L. Flynn, who served as U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican from 1993-97 and as Mayor of Boston from 1984-93, issued this statement on June 2. Flynn has been, since 1999, the president of the political advocacy group the Catholic Alliance, and is author of two books published in the last year, The Accidental Pope and John Paul II, A Personal Portrait and the Man.*

I've become aware of the action to dismantle D.C. General Hospital, as a fully funded, full-service public hospital. It saddens me to see the health-care mission of this hospital, which has served the poor, the weak, and the needy in our nation's capital for over 200 years, being abused in this way.

The news of the precipitous dismantling of this beloved medical institution reminds me, in a most eerie way, of the bizarre dismantling of Boston City Hospital, the

hospital where I was born and my mother and father died. At the time of our hospital's demise, I was 3,000 miles away, having just assumed my post as Ambassador to the Holy See, and I could do little to intervene in the case of our distinguished hospital. Today, I am only a few hundred miles away, and I hope I can be of help in saving this venerable public institution.

Franklin Roosevelt, while still Governor of New York State, said, "The success or failure of any government in the final analysis must be measured by the wellbeing of its citizens. Nothing can be more important to a state than its public health; the state's most paramount concern should be the health of its people." Pope John Paul II, in his final speech of his 1995 U.S. tour, said we must make "the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life." Like all others who have served in public office, I swore a Constitutional oath to "promote the general welfare." These worthy sentiments are my trusted guides in the issue of saving D.C. General Hospital. We have a health-care crisis in the United States and the closing of D.C. General Hospital will further add to it. We've got to stop waging war on the poor!

County, miles away. The young man, who was preparing to attend college in the fall, died en route.

### Increase the Pressure

Seigler's remarks were followed by a series of speeches by Coalition leaders and guests, ranging from Nevada State Senator Joseph Neal, to civil rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Martin Luther King's field commander in the 1963 Children's March, Rev. James L. Bevel. Coalition spokesman Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, D.C. General's "warrior nurse" Charlene Gordon, and Coalition leader Lynne Speed, from LaRouche's Schiller Institute, issued scathing indictments of traitors like Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, and KKK-Katie Graham, whose Washington financial establishment is behind the plan to privatize and shut down the public hospital. Dr. Michal Young, President of the Medical/Dental Staff at D.C. General, exposed the travesty of the shutdown procedure under way, and the lack of provision for necessary care at other facilities. She was particularly scathing in her attack on the new management, which had closed D.C. General's emergency room on May 1, but then re-opened it on May 25-26, in order to service white suburban youth attending a rock concert at nearby RFK Stadium.

An unscheduled appearance was made by Willie Lynch, the chief of staff to Councilman Kevin Chavous. While Lynch shouted his commitment to keeping people from dying in the streets, the crowd was skeptical, as Chavous, and other

Councilmen, have not joined the Coalition in pressuring Congress.

Former Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn, who is also former Ambassador to the Vatican, sent a taped message of support to the meeting, and was interviewed on Washington radio WOL pledging the support of his national Catholic association. Another highlight was a speech by LaRouche's national spokeswoman Debra Freeman, who situated the fight to save D.C. General in the international political context, as a means of defeating Bush. She also announced LaRouche's intention to personally escalate against the "witch of Washington," KKK-Katie Graham, with a Presidential campaign pamphlet aimed at exposing her control of a small army of counterinsurgents, implementing the program of "Negro removal" in D.C. The foretaste of the content of this new salvo was presented by Schiller Institute leader Dennis Speed, read by his wife, Lynne Speed.

The final speaker was Rev. James Bevel. In a rousing speech, he elaborated on the *authority* which has been given to the American citizen by God, the "absolute authority to do what is right, just, and needed." Tyrants will move in, if citizens don't act, he said. Today, it's as if the Devil is testing us: "Let's see how dead these people are. If they let us take the hospital, they must be dead." Citizens have to take responsibility for public institutions—or they fail to be citizens.

A demonstration against the *Washington Post*, proposed by former Boston Mayor Flynn, was announced for June 12.