

March 17, 1950

Veterans Fight Halloran Move

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senators and assemblymen and later "snowball" the drive so that the entire city supports the move, Balbach said.

ACCORDING to Balbach, Louis A. Drago, state department commander; Maurice Stender, department adjutant; George A. Mead, department rehabilitation director, and Joseph Piccirrello, deputy city welfare commissioner and department rehabilitation chairman, planned to see Governor Dewey last night in an attempt to convince him the state executive that the state should renew the federal lease.

Balbach expressed the sentiments of the group, stating, "We're not taking this thing sitting down by any means, even if a number of public officials said nothing could be done."

He said that last September there were about 5,000 VA hospital beds in the city, and that they have been gradually decreased.

Bemoaning the loss of 1,100 beds if Halloran closed, Balbach added that the "load is increasing in the number of vets who need hospitalization."

THE LEGION leader charged, "We're going back to the days after World War I when during the first five years after the war more veterans died on the streets because of the lack of hospital beds than were actually killed in the war itself."

In answer to critics who might say "why not go along with the state and use private hospitals," Balbach said, "There are apparently waiving lists in private hospitals too."

Balbach, who originally introduced a move for the retention of Halloran during the war, said that he is still not yet convinced that he is fighting a losing battle.

He thought that "the citizens will be behind us in this fight in which we're going without kid gloves and not bound by regulations." Balbach explained that the council had no by-laws, but was just interested in keeping Halloran.

ACCORDING TO Balbach, the "coordinated team of personnel at

Halloran will be passed to the "four winds" by the state taking over the institution.

The Legionnaire said that if the former plans of the VA had been adhered to in keeping Halloran until a new VA hospital is built in lower Manhattan, then the employees of Halloran could move over as a "solid unit."

He warned that the Brooklyn Hospital near Fort Hamilton would not be ready in time, and that the Bronx institution is overloaded now.

In attempting to explain why the state refuses to renew its lease to the VA, Balbach said, "We don't know whether the fault lies in Albany or Washington."

In a brief statement, Mezger said of the situation, "It's the rottenest thing that ever came down the pike. We're going all out against it—right clean to national headquarters in Washington."

SPEAKING for the Spanish War Veterans, Gaylor said, "We were very much put out about it, and as a veterans' organization fought to have this retained when the Army originally left it."

"We'll certainly continue to fight for its retention now. A loss of a \$6,000,000 payroll on Staten Island is not easy for Staten Island to take."

Daly, who said that he was surprised at the move, reaffirmed Balbach's stand, stating, "The American Legion is opposed to the closing at this time and will fight with every effort to have it remain open as a VA hospital until a new VA hospital is opened in Manhattan."

A STATEMENT for the Catholic War Veterans and Eugene Higgins, county commander, was made by Dr. Thomas Larocca, past county commander.

"I think the hospital should be retained in view of the fact that for the past seven years it certainly has maintained a good program for the rehabilitation of veterans," he declared.

However, he said he thought that if the hospital must close down, the veterans in the other boroughs and communities would "do their best for the veteran patients."

Major Charles J. Spielman, commander of Austin H. Evans Chapter, Disabled American Veterans, stated that he hoped that veterans would unite and appeal to political leaders.

Spielman said, "The disabled veterans will join their comrades in doing everything possible to have Halloran restored as a further domicile for the treatment of veterans."

A little weight was added to the apparent "lost cause" last night when three units—Borough President of Richmond Post, American Legion, and Snee and Richmond County Posts, VFW—went on record protesting the removal of the hospital.

Cheryl Lynn Nelson's 17-month-old baby died yesterday in her home at 232 Quinn street, Stapleton, after a brief illness.

Surviving are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin S. Nelson; a brother Samuel; parental grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. David Jenkins of 66 Van Duzer street, Stapleton, and a maternal grandmother, Mrs. Hattie Stewart of Scotch Plains, N.J.

The funeral service will be tomorrow at 2 P.M. in the Kenneth E. Billups Funeral Home, 22 Tompkins place, West Brighton. The Rev. James O. Serjeant, pastor of the Brook Street Church of Christ, Tompkinsville, will officiate. Burial will be in Frederick Douglas Cemetery, Oakwood Heights.

John Loughlin

A requiem mass for John Loughlin, a resident of the Farm Colony, who died Wednesday in Sea View Hospital, after a long illness, will be offered Saturday at 10 A.M. at Our Lady Health of the Sick Chapel, Sea View. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery, Linden, N.J. Mr. Loughlin is survived by a cousin who lives in Manhattan. He was 81 years old.

CARD OF THANKS

VAN BUSHKIRK—We wish to extend our

The Rev. Carl Sutter, associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Stapleton, will officiate at a funeral service at 11:30 A.M. in the Schaefer Funeral Home, 538 Bay street, Stapleton.

A native of Nuernburg, Germany, Mr. Seegitz lived on Staten Island for more than 40 years. He worked as a cabinet maker and as an employe of the Brewer Dry Dock Company, Mariners Harbor and O'Brien Brothers Shipyard, Rosebank.

Surviving are his wife, Selma; a son, Ludwig Jr., of 43 Monroe avenue, Tompkinsville; a daughter, Mrs. Gladys Andreassen of Todd Hill Houses, Castleton Corners, and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Filomena Damato

A solemn requiem mass for Mrs. Filomena Damato, 65, of 267 York avenue, New Brighton, will be offered at 10 o'clock in Church of the Assumption, New Brighton. The funeral will be from the Gugliucci and Pietrangelo Funeral Home, 380 Jersey street, New Brighton, and burial will follow in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Mrs. Damato, died Wednesday in her home after a long illness. A native of Vincigliapuro, Italy, she came to the United States about 1903 and had lived on Staten Island since that time.

Surviving are her husband, Frank; her daughter, Mrs. Mary