Staten Island Advance
March 20, 1950

Vets of 2 Boroughs Urge State to Delay Closing of Halloran

[illegible] which we will ask them to join in our appeal to Dewey."

Following is the text of the telegram to Gen. Gray:

"At a meeting of all the veterans organizations in this area, we were asked to request Gov. Thomas E. Dewey to extend the time within which Halloran Hospital be authorized to occupy Willowbrook State School, Richmond County, New York. Please advise us whether the VA is prepared financially and otherwise to continue to operate Halloran, if such extension be granted. Wire reply to us at Albany, immediately, as information is needed before 8 P.M. March 20.

Hope to See Dewey

Reidy stated that they hoped to get Gray's reply early enough today so that they might see the governor, if he has returned to his office. Dewey is recovering from an operation.

Congressman Donald O'Toole of Kings County, who suggested the joint meeting, opened it by stating that "the lay-off of VA employes and the closing of Halloran VA Hospital is the beginning of administrative action under the Hoover plan, as the Hoover plan proponents feel they will be defeated if their proposals on VA matters are presented to the Congress for legislative action."

O'Toole further urged that all veteran organization posts immediately wire President Truman and Gen. Gray, protesting the closing of Halloran.

Layoff Protested

He commented at length on why the Fort Hamilton VA Hospital is not operating at capacity, stressing the curtailment of VA funds, bringing about the lay-off of 7,800 VA employes throughout the nation. He said, "If the VA is sincere and not being ordered by the federal administration, it could request and receive a deficiency appropriation from Congress."

Richard E. Daly, county commander of the Island's American Legion, read copies of telegrams which Congressman James J. Murphy sent Saturday to Gov. Dewey, President Truman and Gen. Gray, asking reconsideration of the termination of the VA's lease at Halloran.

All members of the United Veterans Council of Richmond County were present at the three hour long meeting. A total of approximately 75 Islanders, including the staff officers of the various county commanders on the council, represented Island veteran organizations at the conference.

[illegible] properly care for these patients from Halloran, because of the recent curtailment of VA personnel, and the fact that the Fort Hamilton VA Hospital and the Peekskill VA Hospital are still under construction."

"The plan to move a large number of tubercular patients to the Batavia VA Hospital at this time, when that hospital is not equipped or ready for these patients, will undoubtedly mean a set-back for many of the patients in their treatment and recovery," the district commander said.

[illegible] the metropolitan area and the citizens [illegible] 20,000 annually

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MINISTER SERIOUSLY INJURED IN CAR CRASH

Rev. Stanley E. Smith, Park Baptist Pastor, Suffering from Shock

The Rev. Dr. Stanley E. Smith, pastor of Park Baptist Church, Port Richmond, was seriously injured late Saturday afternoon, when his car was overturned in a collision on Park avenue, less than a block from his Port Richmond home.

Dr. Smith was taken to his home at 130 Park avenue, by Dr. Leif Jensen of 126 Park avenue, neighbor and family physician. The pas-

organizations. He pointed out that the closing of Halloran would