

Protest Is Sent Dewey After Mass Meeting in Brooklyn

By D. T. NUTT

"If the need is so great for the return of Halloran Hospital to the state, why doesn't the state operate to capacity the area it now has at Willowbrook? There are 300 unoccupied beds there," Raymond S. Warshaw of the Disabled American Veterans said yesterday.

The question which Warshaw posed keynoted the position of Island veteran organizations at a three-hour meeting held in the clubrooms of Steneck Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at 316 13th street, Brooklyn.

The mass meeting was sponsored by the United Veterans Council of Kings County and the recently organized United Veterans Council of Richmond County for the retention of Halloran VA Hospital.

The combined groups passed two resolutions. In the first they protested to Governor Dewey the action by the state in not renewing the VA lease for Halloran, and requesting reconsideration and enactment of the lease until a new VA hospital in lower Manhattan is completed.

His Staff Cuts

In the second resolution addressed to President Truman and Veterans Administrator Carl Gray, they denounced the 7,800-employee reduction of the VA staff, and demanded that the VA apply to Congress for a deficiency appropriation to remedy the situation.

Leo D'A Balbach of New Dorp, Second District commander of the American Legion, was the leading spokesman for the Island veteran organizations. He pointed out that the closing of Halloran would mean the loss of 1,100 hospital beds to the veterans in the metropolitan area until 1953, when the VA hospital in lower Manhattan is expected to be completed.

Balbach said that no new admittances in any VA hospital in this area will be received until the 1,300 patients from Halloran are placed, the only exception being acute surgical cases.

"Because of this, the already very long waiting lists that have been established for admission to VA hospitals in the area will reach tremendous proportions in the very near future. They are, increasing daily," Balbach said.