

#### Thousands Invested

The estimated total does not include other thousands of dollars poured out of federal coffers into the Halloran project during World War II, comprising permanent and semi-permanent improvements later taken over by the Veterans Administration.

Since the VA took over the project less than two and a-half years ago, the Halloran spokesman said, about \$150,000 in maintenance improvements has been invested. This sum includes everything from the cost of building ramps for paraplegic wheelchairs to installation of oxygen manifold equipment, a job completed two days before the sudden announcement March 16 that Halloran would close in June.

Just 12 months ago, it was pointed out, \$18,000 in federal moneys was poured into Halloran for the fitting out of a modern center for the treatment of acute cases of tuberculosis.

This included extensive partitioning, painting and installation of special equipment. The investment will be irrecoverably lost if Halloran Hospital closes this June, medical men say.

#### Money Seen Wasted

And doctors and administrators are quick to point out that setting up a completely-equipped tuberculosis center that is used for only a year is "far from economical."

While the investment made in installing equipment for the care of paraplegic patients has been smaller, the loss—in both human and financial terms—may be even greater.

The Halloran buildings used by paraplegics are said to be ideally suited to their needs. They are one-story structures, equipped with ramps, permitting the patients to move about freely. The U-shaped buildings feature a center courtyard ideally suited to the needs of paraplegics.

Should such patients be moved elsewhere, it is pointed out, they may not find as convenient quarters, and may have to use elevators and other mechanical equipment in order to move about. To such patients, medical men say, it may mean the difference between being independent or dependent.

#### Improvements Listed

The Halloran spokesman said thousands of dollars have been spent in the course of less than 2½ years in setting up elaborately-equipped manual arts, physical and occupational therapy centers, medical research laboratories, installation of deep therapy equipment, and in normal interior painting and maintenance.

More than \$1,000 was spent in installing bedside earphones in wards, while another \$2,500 went to install outlets for bed lamps. Such investments cannot be reclaimed, it was emphasized.

It was pointed out, too, that operation of thousands of dollars worth of modern X-ray equipment made necessary the setting up of special booster equipment by the Staten Island Edison Corporation to increase voltage.

The probable loses, estimated as they are, do not include the actual costs of equipment installed, since most such equipment could be reclaimed and reinstalled elsewhere.

Some 300 patients have been moved from Halloran to Hamilton. We were given to understand that the VA would retain Halloran VA Hospital until the hospital in the lower part of Manhattan was completed, provided that the governor of New York would approve an extension of the present lease.

"It would seem to us that Governor Dewey might feel justified if he turned down your plea for the need of Halloran facilities, while personnel and patients are being moved to other installations. Can't this migration be stopped until Governor Dewey makes a decision?"

"From the contacts we've made with other commanders of DAV chapters in this vicinity, they all join with us in the plea that vacant hospital beds be made available to sick veterans. We now have 300 beds vacant at Halloran. Please advise us what help you can give us."

Copies of the letter will be sent to DAV chapters and other veterans organizations throughout the city, it was announced.

#### Appeals to Dewey

The unit announced receipt of a letter from Leo B. Wheeler, state commander, declaring that the state organization is exerting every effort to have Halloran retained. He has made a personal appeal to Dewey, Wheeler reported.

The chapter also was told that William Dodd, past national commander and a New Jersey resident, has been conducting a spirited campaign among Jersey veterans to rally support for retention. The state's congressmen have been urged to back a measure providing for the purchase of Halloran by the government.

George DuBois, commander, presided. The next meeting will be May 11.

Advance, April 14, 1950

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