

April 12, 1950

April 14, 1950

Legislators Believe Dewey Will Permit VA to Retain Part of Halloran Setup

Braisted, Curry and Reidy Issue Statement Forecasting 'Equitable Agreement'

Confidence that at least a section of Halloran VA Hospital would be retained to care for veterans was expressed today by the Island's three state legislators despite the continued flow of patients and personnel to other institutions.

A joint statement by Senator John M. Braisted Jr. and Assemblymen Edward V. Curry and William N. Reidy declared that "we believe an equitable agreement can and will be reached between the State of New York and the Veterans Administration for the re-leasing of as much of the present Halloran space as is absolutely essential for the adequate care and proper treatment of veteran patients still hospitalized."

The legislators said that the adequate hospital facilities for veterans can be made available in other parts of the city. Pending final decision, however, the VA is continuing to transfer patients and employes to hospitals in Peekskill and Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn.

tion owed by the state to wounded and ailing veterans.

They stated that they have, in the last few weeks, gathered considerable information on the need for retaining Halloran from both veterans and hospital officials, and are preparing to present these facts to the governor at a conference he has promised to hold with them.

Work for Retention
Braisted, Reidy and Curry have been working to retain the Willowbrook hospital ever since plans to shut it down were announced last month. As the result of a conference held with Dewey, the governor agreed to make a special investigation of the problem, the results of which are expected to be announced by the end of the month.

It has been widely rumored that the state will agree to let the VA retain a part of the institution until the adequate hospital facilities for veterans can be made available in other parts of the city.

Pending final decision, however, the VA is continuing to transfer patients and employes to hospitals in Peekskill and Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn.

Halloran Retention Unit Of Legion Raps Decision

Fight to Retain Facility Goes On, States Chairman

Cornelius Bregoff, chairman of the American Legion retention committee for Halloran VA Hospital and past county commander, last night rapped the decision to evacuate the hospital and return the property to the Willowbrook State School. He also criticized what he called the "further-argument-to-retain-Halloran-would-be-to-no-avail" attitude of the state Mental Hygiene Department and Veteran Administration officials.

Bregoff said, "I take exception to the attitude of the state Mental Hygiene Department and VA officials that further argument for the re-

ention of Halloran would be of avail.

"The need for such facilities is apparent. Recently 30 beds veterans in Marine Hospital taken away because there were facilities in Halloran.

"Last week, Ellis Island Marine Hospital was closed. With the retention of Halloran, there will be facilities here.

"It seems strange that in a time of national emergency when we are on the brink of war the VA is economizing on such a vital need for hospitals. This is a time when we need more beds, not less.

"We intend to continue to fight for the retention of Halloran hospital. It is the attitude of the state Mental Hygiene Department and VA officials that further argument for the re-

30 U. S. Hospital Beds Are Returned to VA

Island Veterans Win Fight for Use of Facility

By ROBERT D. FARRELL

A measure of relief for Island veterans in need of hospitalization was granted yesterday when the American Legion announced the return to Veterans Administration jurisdiction of 30 beds in Marine Hospital.

These beds will be available immediately for veterans needing emergency and acute chronic medical and surgical care, John E. Mitchell, county Legion commander, announced.

The facilities in Marine Hospital were recently reclaimed by the

Public Health Service which said at the time that there were enough beds in Halloran VA Hospital for veterans. That act preceded the return of Halloran to the state.

Return of the 30 beds was engineered by Congressman James J. Murphy at the request of the Legion.

Mitchell said that he thought emergency and acute chronic medical and surgical cases would more than keep the beds occupied. However, if any of the beds are unoccupied, other general medical and surgical patients may use the Marine Hospital facilities if cleared by the VA.

Service-connected cases will be given priority, Mitchell pointed out, although emergency non-service-connected cases will also be treated.

April 15, 1950

U.S. Hospital Beds Returned To Use by VA

(From page 1)

ice-connected cases will also be treated.

Work on the return of the 30 beds started last Monday after the results of the conference between Veterans Administrator Carl R. Gray Jr. and Mitchell and Richard F. Daly, past county commander, were made known.

A telegram was sent by Raymond Warshaw, county service officer, to Congressman Murphy advising him that Island veterans were without hospital beds and asking for his help in renewing the contract for the 30 beds which the VA had with Marine Hospital.

Congressman Murphy replied on Tuesday that he had requested the resuming of the contract. Yesterday he wired that arrangements had been made between the Public Health Service and the VA to resume the contract for the beds.

Mitchell praised the "prompt and successful" action of Congressman Murphy and expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Legion.

Joseph S. Decker Camp, Spanish-American War Veterans, also had joined in the fight for the return of the beds by sending a copy of a resolution to that effect drafted at its Jan. 10 meeting to Congressman Murphy.

patients, propelled themselves down Park avenue in Manhattan yesterday in a wheelchair parade protesting the shutdown of Halloran VA Hospital.

The participants, members of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, were bitter about the impending transfer of Halloran's paraplegics to VA hospitals in Richmond, Va., and Framingham, Mass. They bore aloft signs charging broken promises and asking why they could not be transferred to Fort Hamilton VA Hospital in Brooklyn.

Robert Moss, executive secretary of the association, who led the picket line, said the transfer order will tear many paraplegics from their families. Others will take their discharges against medical advice, rather than undergo the separation, he said.

Kingsbridge Rapped
Moss charged that Kingsbridge VA Hospital in Bronx, where it is expected 55 of the vets will be sent, has no facilities to care for paraplegics, and that it is overcrowded. Suggestions that paraplegics be shifted to Fort Hamilton have met with no response, he said.

He said the PVA would wire Veterans Administrator Gen. Carl Gray, protesting the shutdown, due to take effect Feb. 15. He expressed the hope that the hospital could be kept open until paralyzed veterans can receive adequate treatment at another institution in the New York area.

Dr. Arthur Abramson, in charge of paraplegics at Kingsbridge, said afterwards that the VA could not be considered responsible for separating veterans from their families, that they were being sent to hospitals where they would receive the best of care.

The Kingsbridge institution, he said, will ultimately be able to care for 100 paraplegic cases.