

April 21, 1950

Governor Dewey Extends Halloran I

Veterans Retain About Half of Present Space

ALBANY, N. Y. April 20th (Special to The Staten Island Transcript)—Governor Dewey in a statement Thursday morning that, "I am happy to say that the State Department of Mental Hygiene and the United States Veterans Administration have worked out a satisfactory agreement concerning the use of the New York State Hospital, Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, which has been used by the Federal Government under the name Halloran Hospital.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Veterans Administration will retain about one half of the space it now has at the institution until December 31, 1952. The Veterans Administration has assured the Department of Mental Hygiene that this space will be ample to care for veteran patients now at the hospital, and that there are facilities for the other patients at the veterans' hospitals in and close to the City of New York.

The use by the Department of Mental Hygiene of the other half of the space will provide urgently needed beds for mentally defective children, many of whom are presently patients in over crowded institutions throughout the State."

Mr. Edward A. Ruppell in a statement following the governors at the official press conference said, "The Governor's action today marks the culmination of many weeks of effort expanded to retain Halloran Hospital on Staten Island.

The solution arrived at, I believe, is the happiest that can be found to take care of veterans' needs where other Veterans Administration facilities are not yet available, and which still helps alleviate the desperate need for additional facilities for the State's mentally handicapped children.

My thanks go to Borough President Hall who has so earnestly supported my work and to Frank A. Pavis, J. Joyce Klinger, George W. Gatz and Leo Balbach, who have given so much of their time and effort in assisting me to obtain our goal.

Our deep appreciation goes to Governor Dewey for the sympathetic treatment."

Mr. Leo Balbach concluded with the following statement, "The veterans of the State of New York with the favorable decision of Governor Dewey in granting an extension of the operation of Halloran, wish to thank Governor Dewey for his kind consideration."

Frank Pavis and J. Joyce Klinger are recently appointed members to the Board of Visitors at Willowbrook State School. George W. Gatz is Deputy Commissioner of State Liquor Authority and Leo Balbach is Commander in the 2nd District, Department of the New York American Legion.

Edward Ruppell has been working very hard and received a telephone call that he and his associates were to come to Albany to confer with the Governor in an effort to get this accomplished and settled immediately. All four men went to Albany Wednesday, and studied the problem throughout the night.

Assemblyman Frank J. McMullen from the Bay Ridge District, and in whose area the new Veterans Administration Hospital, assisted the delegation and was most helpful in the happy realization of this very worth while effort.

The delegation returned to New York Thursday afternoon.