

Ruppell Statement

Ruppell yesterday issued the following statement:

"The governor's action marks the culmination of many weeks of effort I have expended in an effort to retain Halloran Hospital on Staten Island.

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

"My thanks go to the men who have given so much of their time and effort in assisting me to attain our goal, including the fine support of my efforts by Borough President Hall. My deepest appreciation goes to Governor Dewey for his sympathetic treatment of the problem."

Legislators Pleased

The Island's three Democratic state legislators—State Senator John M. Braisted Jr. and Assemblymen Edward V. Curry and William N. Reidy—joined in the following statement:

"We are pleased to learn that Halloran Hospital would continue to operate as a veterans facility until the end of 1952.

"We should like to thank Governor Dewey and General Gray for their cooperation during the negotiations and our sincere thanks to all veterans and civic organizations who took part in the campaign to retain a hospital which brings comfort to the veteran-patients and employment to hundreds of Staten Island residents.

"Ever mindful of the demands on this state to care properly for our mentally ill, we feel that the buildings that have been returned to the state under the new agreement will relieve to a great extent the demand on the Department of Mental Hygiene for hospital facilities."

Balbach said the decision should satisfy all veterans in the state, and he praised Dewey for the decision.

Legion Chief Happy

Richard F. Daly, county commander of the Legion, said he was happy over the result especially "because everyone had a defeatist attitude at the start of the campaign."

The decision came after months of negotiations. Administrator Gray and Dewey had conferred on an extension of the lease in mid-January. Then the VA announced abruptly last month that the state wanted the buildings and refused to renew the lease beyond June 30.

Transfer of patients had begun with the objective of having all veteran-patients in other facilities by June 30.

Snee Post VFW Wants Retention Permanent

Although yesterday's announcement by Governor Dewey ordering the retention of approximately half of Halloran VA Hospital until 1952 was regarded by the members as a gain over the situation as it existed, Snee Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, last night reiterated its demand that the hospital be made a permanent Island installation. The post met in Schull's Hall, Tottenville.

"We will keep after the situation," reported members. "until we know whether Halloran will be returned to the state or kept as a VA hospital."

Members, who stated that they will not be satisfied until Halloran is permanently retained on the Island, announced that a letter answering one of their communications had been received from Veterans Administrator Carl Gray. Gray had informed the post, it was reported, that no action could be taken on the hospitals' future status until Governor Dewey announced his decision.

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