

## Halloran Row Up in Congress

By DON SHEARD

The gallant fight of 87 paralyzed veterans against eviction from Halloran Hospital by Feb. 15 reached the floor of Congress today.

A delegation of New York Congressmen, headed by Rep. Victor L. Anfuso (D.-Brooklyn), demanded that the Veterans Administration delay the removal of the paraplegics for at least 90 days until adequate facilities can be found in New York City for them.

The hopelessly-crippled veterans are being dispossessed from Halloran Hospital on Staten Island to make room for mentally retarded children, who were forced out of their quarters at Sampson, N. Y., which were taken over by the Air Forces.

### ASK DEWEY TO ACT.

The paraplegics are being dispersed to admittedly crowded Kingsbridge Hospital in the Bronx and to hospitals in Richmond, Va., and Farmingham, Mass.

As Congressional aid lined up for the paraplegics, the legislatures of New York and New Jersey today prepared to ask Gov. Dewey

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## Congress Gets Fight Of Halloran Vets

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to postpone the transfer from Halloran until a solution can be worked out.

Asserting the country "has a moral and legal obligation to these paralyzed men," Rep. Anfuso asked the VA to equip for them one floor of the 22-story Ft. Hamilton Veterans Hospital, rather than send them to the Bronx or out of the State.

Anfuso declared:

"I am sure that the Veterans Administration is not intentionally disregarding the problems of the paraplegics. I know they will get adequate medical treatment wherever they go. But the fact remains that the VA promised the paraplegics they could remain at Halloran until Dec. 31, 1952, when the new Manhattan Veterans hospital will be ready."

### INSPECTS HOSPITAL.

Before he left for Washington last night, Anfuso made an inspection of Ft. Hamilton to find out the feasibility of converting a floor to the special needs of the paraplegics.

Pledges of support for the paraplegics came from Rep. John J. Roney, (D) of the 12th District, who said:

"I am doing everything possible to have these patients retained at Halloran and have already interceded with the proper authorities."

Reps. James J. Heffernan, Ernest Greenwood, Frederic Couderc, all of New York, and Rep. Hugh J. Addonizio, of New Jersey, have also interceded on behalf of the paraplegics.

The main objections of the paraplegics, 55 of whom are service connected cases from New York City, stems from the fact that Kingsbridge does not have the space they need and have become accustomed to at Halloran.

### 'STARTING LIFE ALL OVER.'

Doomed to live in wheelchairs because of shattered spines, many of them furnished apartments on Staten Island in order to receive daily treatment at Halloran. All of them feel the breaking up of the group will rob them of the painfully bought friendships, which medical authorities admit is necessary for their happiness and rehabilitation.

William R. Robedee, State service officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, completed a survey of the Ft. Hamilton hospital and

urged the VA to enlarge the facilities there to care for the Halloran paraplegics.

"It will be starting life all over again," said Frank Frank, 38, who has been a patient at Halloran for five years.

Attached to the 29th Division, he received shrapnel in his spine in Aachen, Germany, and has been paralyzed since. On week ends he goes to his home at 1476 Lafayette ave., Bronx to visit his wife, Anne and their three sons.

"I don't like this move at all. We have a lot of privileges here at Halloran and we can come and go as we please.

"It's not going to be easy at all for me to move into a strange hospital and have to start all over again," he added.