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Ouster Delay Urged: Await VA Ruling On Halloran Vets

By DON SHEARD

New York's congressional leaders today awaited word from the Veterans Administration on their request to delay the eviction of the paralyzed veterans of Halloran Hospital for 60 days.

"We have exhausted every effort to save these men from being dispersed. Now it is up to Gen. Carl Grey, VA administrator, to make the final decision," said Rep. Victor Anfuso (D.-Brooklyn), who is heading the fight to force the government to live up to its pledge to maintain the facilities at Halloran.

In a strongly worded letter Anfuso and the majority of the New York congressional bloc yesterday urged Gen. Gray and Gov. Dewey to cooperate with the view of postponing for at least 60 days the removal of the paraplegics from Halloran to permit them to adjust personal and family affairs.

54 STILL IN HOSPITAL.

The paraplegics, originally 87, and now cut down to 54 by transfers to out-of-State hospitals, must be out of Halloran, on Staten Island, by Feb. 15 to make room for civilian mental cases, who are being forced out of the facilities at Sampson, N. Y.

"I contacted the Air Force and they told me they would delay taking over the buildings at Sampson. Gov. Dewey's office said that in view of this they would refrain from sending patients to Halloran if the Veterans Administration requests a delay," Anfuso said.

The congressman pointed out the unanimous desire of the paralyzed veterans is to be sent to Fort Hamilton VA Hospital, Brooklyn, and said that there is available space there that could be reconverted to their needs at a small cost.

At Kingsbridge VA Hospital in the Bronx, ward capacity was being enlarged to care for 42 of the paraplegics who are now at Halloran.

TO HANDLE 100 CASES.

The Kingsbridge facilities were designed to care for only 50 men and the Veterans Administration said, that by Feb. 7, they would be able to handle 100 cases.

The plight of the men has won the support of every veterans organization and dozens of legislators. A special seven-man committee, composed of three State senators and four assemblymen are working in Albany to get a 60-day delay.

The difficulties of the men, many of whom built homes for their families on Staten Island, was highlighted by Otto Hayek, 26, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hayek, live at 902 44th st., Brooklyn.

"This is our second home. It's cool here in the Summer and I can go home easily on weekends. It's an ideal place for paraplegics," he said.

"Kingsbridge is crowded and parking is tough," he added.

The VA leased Halloran until Dec. 31, 1952, when a new paraplegic center was to be opened in Manhattan for them.

There is a small building at Halloran.