

Thaler Tale of Hospital Horrors And 'Guinea Pigs' Jolts Albany

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Albany, Jan. 10—State Sen. Seymour R. Thaler (D-Queens) today told a tale of horror and human guinea pig experiments in New York City and upstate institutions that stunned and sickened his listeners.

Thaler has been investigating and criticizing the city's hospital system for several months. On the Senate floor today he charged that the following experiments have been performed:

- Twenty-one paying patients in the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in Brooklyn were injected with live cancerous cells. The patients did not know of the experiments, which in no way related to their illnesses.

- Organ transplants were performed at James Ewing Hospital and Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York City without patient consent.

- The doctors who performed the experiments at the chronic disease hospital repeated the experiments on 600 "charity" patients, one-half of whom did not have cancer. Many of them died.

Names 2 Doctors

Thaler said most of the 600 "experiments" were performed at James Ewing Hospital by a Dr. Southam. Thaler said a Dr. Mandel at Jewish Chronic



State Sen. Seymour Thaler
Names names and places

Disease Hospital made the patients "available" there for Southam.

Thaler said one researcher was asked if he would want his father experimented on and answered: "Are you assuming I am or am not a doctor? As a doctor, my situation is not the same as an ordinary person's."

Thaler then shouted: "The medical establishment presumed

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to act as God over the health and lives of the medically indigent."

He said the State Department of Education, which has jurisdiction over doctors, merely reprimanded the doctors and placed them on probation for one year.

A Bellevue Example

The Senator continued his charges:

- When surgeons at Bellevue Hospital have a light schedule, they go to the psychiatric ward and pick out a "sick" patient and proceed to operate to help train internes.

- Harlem Hospital doctors treat medically children with "general distortions" of the limbs and improve the use of the limbs until the curriculum of the schools call for surgical practice. Then Thaler said, the doctors send the young patients "right up to surgery where their limbs are removed so the young (doctors) men and women can learn."

Thaler paused in his speech at this point, turned to his colleagues and whispered: "You try to sleep with that. I can't—I won't."

Thaler's remarks and a resolution embodying them were referred by the Senate to the finance committee for action.

Thaler also fired a blast at the state-operated Willowbrook Hospital on Staten Island. He charged that the hospital's officials injected "over 500 children" age 3 to 9 with live hepatitis virus even though the injection had nothing to do with treatment of the children. He said the injections were given so a study could be made on hepatitis.

"Even though the hospital claims it had consent from the children's parents," Thaler said, "I doubt that 500 parents would give such consent."

He charged that the Bird S. Coler Hospital in New York City permitted doctors to give drugs to elderly patients for experimentation and that Flower Fifth Ave. permitted drug companies to pay doctors directly for using drugs in experiments on patients.

"Liver Tissue Used"

Thaler said that liver tissue was "punched" out, without consent, of every derelict who entered Bellevue Hospital and it was used for research. He said that four out of every thousand patients thus treated died.

The senator said he "would have more to say on the hospital situation at a later date."