

Bi-Party Bill Seeks Curb on 'Guinea Pigs'

Albany, Jan. 17 (AP)—A bipartisan bill that would prohibit medical research on children and require adult patients to give written consent was introduced in the Legislature today by State Sen. Seymour R. Thaler (D-Queens).



State Sen. Thaler

Thaler charged in the Senate last week that there had been experiments on "human guinea pigs" in New York City hospitals and state institutions.

The bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Norman F. Lent (R-Nassau), chairman of a joint legislative committee on public health that has been studying New York City's municipal hospitals.

Would Amend Rights Law

The bill would amend the civil rights law to read that "No per-

son shall be used in a medical experiment or other medical research without his voluntary, informed consent, subscribed to in writing."

Persons sought for use in medical research must be fully advised of any hazards involved and the possible effects.

The bill would nullify any written consent given by a parent or guardian for the use of a minor—anyone under 21—for medical experiments, except in emergency cases.

Would Need Court Order

The measure would require a doctor to obtain a court order to conduct medical research on a minor, Thaler said, but the court would have to be satisfied that the experiment is related to the minor's physical or mental ailment.

The provision was aimed, Thaler said, at the Willowbrook School for the mentally retarded on Staten Island, where some children were injected with live

hepatitis cells as part of a research program.

"It would also cover research involving children who have cerebral palsy or other childhood disease," Thaler said.

City Admits Biopsies On Bowery Derelicts

Liver biopsies have been performed on some Bowery derelicts without their permission, as claimed by State Sen. Seymour Thaler, Hospitals Commissioner Joseph W. Terenzio admitted yesterday. But the commissioner denied that any deaths or injuries resulted from this practice.

"To the best of my knowledge, not a single patient of this type has died or been hurt through this procedure in the past five years," said Terenzio at the annual meeting of the Auxiliary to Bellevue Hospital Center.

He said the biopsies were done primarily for the benefit of the patients, not for research pur-

poses alone. Liver damage is suspected in all derelicts because of apparent acute alcoholism, and the biopsy determines the extent of liver damage, Terenzio declared.

The Doctor Didn't Know

The commissioner denied that unauthorized research was widespread in municipal hospitals. He cited a doctor who moved recently from Texas to become chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Coney Island Hospital, Brooklyn, bringing with him a \$91,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study oxygen in the blood of pregnant women.

"He didn't realize he needed permission," Terenzio said.

A Hospitals Department spokesman said later that the researcher, Dr. Aloys Vasicka, had gotten permission from Maimonides Hospital, mother hospital to Coney Island in the affiliation system, although it had not notified Coney Island Hospital of the approval.