

Human 'Guinea Pig' Ban Defeated

Combined Wire Services

ALBANY, April 1—A bill resulting from Queens Democratic Sen. Seymour Thaler's charges of "guinea pig" practices in New York City hospitals went down to a narrow defeat today in the Assembly.

The bill would have required "informed written consent" before a patient could be used for medical experimentation.

Thaler early this year blasted city hospitals for using welfare patients as guinea pigs in medical experiments.

The bill was defeated 69 to 62.

Assembly Majority Leader Moses Weinstein, D-Queens, pleaded for passage of the bill on the ground that "human dignity, human rights and human principles demand" that "all those who grace this earth be protected."

Those opposed to the bill declared that its provisions would place severe limitations on the "vitaly needed" research activities conducted by hospitals, doctors and other research organizations.

They pointed to opposition from the State Mental Hygiene Department and drug and research institutions.

Thaler had charged that hundreds of patients had unknowingly served as "human guinea pigs" for researchers looking into men-

tal and physical defects.

Weinstein said that he was not criticizing the medical profession in supporting the bill, and said that under its provisions research would not be crippled "but dignity and value would be upheld."

The bill would require that

any organization or person providing economic support for research purposes would register with the health department.

The bill would not have prevented individual doctors from treating patients in any matter they saw fit.

THIS NOT SENT TO ALBANY

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1967

Fire Quelled At Willowbrook

A small fire which broke out in one of the dormitory buildings at Willowbrook State School, shortly before midnight, resulted in little damage but a lot of smoke.

The blaze, which was confined to one of the rooms on the third floor of the building, was brought under control in minutes by one engine and two ladder companies, under the command of Battalion Chief John Purcell. Its cause was not determined.