

2 Aides Arrested for Striking Elderly Nursing Home Patients

BY PHILIP CAPUTO

Two nurses' aides were arrested yesterday and charged with striking elderly patients in two Chicago nursing homes with long records of health code violations.

The arrests for battery came two months after the attacks were described in a seven-part series by THE TRIBUNE Task Force detailing instances of filth, neglect and brutality in the area's "warehouses for the dying."

Acting on information supplied by the Task Force and the Better Government Association, which cooperated in the investigation, state's attorney's police arrested Mrs. Cleother White and Miss Theola Jones. Bond for each was set at \$500, said Jack B. Schmetterer, 1st assistant state's attorney. The women are to appear in Misdemeanor Court June 10.

Mrs. White was charged with kicking Bufort Chaney, 79, a patient in the Beacon Hill Nursing Home, 4530 N. Beacon St., on Feb. 5. A Task Force reporter told the county prosecutor's office that he saw Mrs. White kick Chaney as he sat in his wheelchair on the second floor of the home. The reporter said Chaney's foot brushed Mrs. White's uniform, after which she cursed and kicked him in the leg and threatened to beat him.

Beacon Hill Home officials were fined \$600 last month after pleading guilty to numerous code violations at a hearing of the Chicago Board of Health.

Miss Jones was charged with slapping the face of a 91-year-old man in the Park House Nursing home, 2320 S. Lawndale Av. The Park House was reopened recently, after it had

been closed by the city Board of Health for conditions that were termed dangerous to the health of its 80 patients.

According to William Recktenwald, a B. G. A. investigator who worked in the home as a mopboy, Miss Jones slapped the helpless man as she and another aide forced him into a bathtub. Recktenwald told state's attorney investigators that the man pleaded, "slow down, I can't bend my legs that fast," as he was being pushed into the tub.

Miss Jones answered his plea with a slap across the face, knocking him down, Recktenwald said.