

# Daley Orders New Laws, Nurse Home Inspections

## Act Now, Aides Told

BY WILLIAM JONES  
AND PAMELA ZEKMAN

Mayor Daley yesterday ordered key city department heads to begin immediately to draft ordinances upgrading requirements for nursing home employees.

During a two-hour meeting in the mayor's office, Daley also said he has ordered city building, fire and health inspectors to "increase their surveillance" of nursing homes.

Daley told reporters that new laws controlling the operation of nursing homes probably will include a specific ratio of nurse's aides and nurses to patients.

### Orders Officials to Act

"No one is attempting to condemn all of the nursing homes, but I ordered them [city departments] to do everything necessary to improve conditions in the homes that are not good," said Daley.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Murray Brown, commissioner of health; Fire Commissioner Robert Quinn; Emmet J. Duffy, deputy building commissioner; Richard Curry, city corporation counsel; David Stahl, the mayor's top aide; and Kenneth Sain, another Daley aide whose duties include supervision of city licensing.

Earlier in the day, the executive director of the Metropolitan Chicago Nursing Home Association charged that Tribune disclosures of brutality, filth and patient neglect in nursing homes are "rampant with dramatic exaggeration."

### Hasn't Visited Homes

But he admitted that he had not visited the homes since the disclosures were made.

Speaking at a press conference in the association's headquarters at 43 E. Ohio St., Rabbi Hillel Yampol also condemned the investigation, conducted in cooperation with the Better Government Association, as being "politically motivated."

Yampol said the disclosures "are being made by untrained observers and reflect, in part, lack of knowledge. They are, so far, unsubstantiated by any responsible agency."

The charges of wretched living conditions and neglect resulted from a 6-week investiga-



(TRIBUNE Staff photo: By Leonard Bartolone)

### Rabbi Hillel Yampol replying to disclosures of nursing home brutality.

tion in which 4 members of THE TRIBUNE Task Force worked in almost 20 homes as janitors, mopboys and nurse's aides.

Yampol did not explain what he meant by political motivation, other than to say the disclosures represent "groundwork" for an adjustment in welfare payments to long-term care facilities.

Yampol said the funds would either be increased, decreased or shifted from state to federal responsibility. He said he did not know which course would be followed.

He said the homes described

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## Task Force Report

The TRIBUNE Task Force spent six weeks working with the Better Government Association to prepare a comprehensive report on Chicago area nursing homes. Reporters William Jones, Philip Caputo, William Currie and Pamela Zekman worked in nearly 20 nursing homes to document patient neglect and abuse. Their reports today are on page 2.

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in the disclosures are not representative of the nursing home industry. However, he said, "It would be foolish to deny the possibility that a fringe of undesirable practices occur."

Yampol said the owners of the homes will be called before the association's ethics committee, which is investigating the charges.

## Three Are Officers

The operators of three of the homes are officers of the association. They are: Daniel S. Slader, treasurer, the administrator of the Melbourne Nursing Center, 4621 N. Racine Av.; Joseph Bonnan, board member, the owner of the Monterey-Drexel Home, 4616 S. Drexel Blvd.; and David Gans, board member, the administrator of Winston Manor, 2155 W. Pierce Av.

Yampol said that if the ethics committee's investigation finds the same violations as reported in THE TRIBUNE, he would consider suspending the homes from the association.

Yampol admitted that conditions in nursing homes are below that of hospitals. He blamed mismanagement of welfare

funds, tight-fisted public aid officials and the public.

"The community gets what it deserves," Yampol said. "They won't get good health care for the aged until they're willing to vote for it."

## Urges More Aid

He suggested that state officials either increase welfare payments to long-term care facilities, or funnel welfare funds from other areas into the nursing home field.

"State government is simply not providing enough money for adequate staffing and care. For example, Illinois is the third wealthiest state, but 16th in nursing home rates," Yampol said.

Donald Moss, executive director of the Illinois Association for the Mentally Retarded, condemned public agencies for not policing the nursing home industry.

"Why do we have to have an expose in THE TRIBUNE before things are done. Why can't we have an ongoing program of care?" Moss asked.

The Illinois Department of Public Aid Monday began withholding welfare funds from homes mentioned in the disclosures, and state, city and county agencies pledged sweeping investigations of conditions in the homes.

## Plan Homes' Inspection

Dr. Franklin Yoder, director of the Illinois Public Health Department, said state and city inspectors would conduct an unprecedented joint inspection of homes in Chicago.

Under state law, the Illinois Department of Public Health is required to issue a license to a nursing home which passes an inspection by a city health department.

The Cook County Department of Public Aid yesterday released figures showing that 13,700 welfare recipients are living in 198 nursing homes throughout Cook County. Teams yesterday began inspecting homes in suburban Cook County. The plans are to remove public aid recipients if the homes do not meet standards.