

# City's Health Chief Closes 3 Nursing Homes for Abuses

BY PAMELA ZEKMAN

Three more nursing homes were ordered closed yesterday by Dr. Murray Brown, city health commissioner, who directed the owners to transfer a total of 120 patients to other nursing facilities.

Dr. Brown said the homes were being closed for failure to meet building code and health standards. All three homes had failed to obtain 1971 licenses and were under license review.

They were among 24 homes checked this weekend by city inspectors, who found they had made no progress in upgrading conditions and "in fact have backslided a bit," Dr. Brown said.

## Name Homes Closed

The homes ordered closed were North Shore Rest Haven, 7428 N. Rogers Av., which has 41 patients; Ivory Nursing Home, Inc., 5839 S. Calumet Av., 37 patients; and Mount Pisgah Nursing Home, 4220 S. Champlain Av., 42 patients.

On Friday the Board of Health ordered the Park House Nursing Home, 2320 S. Lawndale Av., closed and an estimated 70 patients removed after finding conditions there "dangerous to life."

## Visit 3 Homes

Both Park House and North Shore Rest Haven were among 20 homes exposed by THE TRIBUNE and Better Government Association for filthy conditions, patient neglect and abuse. A federal grand jury has subpoenaed the books and records of North Shore in conjunction with a government probe into practices of nursing home operators.

Dr. Brown said that city inspectors made surprise visits over the weekend to the three homes ordered closed yester-

day. At North Shore, a city nurse found patients not getting proper care, patients without baths, dirty equipment and inadequate heating.

At the Mount Pisgah home an inspector found only three nurse's aides on duty with no licensed practical nurses as

[Continued on page 2, col. 5]

# City Orders 3 Nursing Homes Shut

[Continued from first page]

required by law, neglected corridors, and no administrator in the home. The maintenance man was acting as administrator, Brown said.

## "Enforcement Will Continue"

"Unsanitary conditions were reported at the Ivory Home. Brown said the home was obviously in the midst of a massive renovation but, "we thought that in the interests of the patients, such a project should be conducted in their absence."

Brown pledged that "the same intensive enforcement will continue until every nursing home is in full compliance with all applicable codes." He said a program to inspect halfway houses where discharged mental patients are placed will begin when he receives a complete list of all facilities telling where the Department of Mental Health has assigned patients. The city has been attempting to obtain this list for more than a year.

In a related development, Harold Boysaw, deputy director of the County Public Aid Department said public aid investigators have visited 80 homes and conducted 682 patient interviews in an effort to determine whether public assistance funds are being mispent.

He said inspections will continue thru the week, and a final report will be compiled on which homes should no longer receive public aid patients.

State inspectors dispatched over the weekend to conduct surprise inspections of nursing homes are expected to report to Dr. Franklin Yoder, State Public Health director today on their findings.