

Subpena Homes for Elderly

BY PAMELA ZEKMAN
AND PHILIP CAPUTO

Subpenas were served on Chicago area nursing home operators yesterday as a special federal grand jury opened an investigation into the operations of substandard homes and their dealings with drug suppliers, physicians and the public agencies that pay for patient care.

William J. Bauer, United States attorney for Northern Illinois, said his office expects to question hundreds of patients and their families in an effort to determine if nursing homes are charging fees for services they have never provided.

Appoints Prosecutor

Bauer said the investigation will be directed by James R. Thompson, first assistant U. S. attorney. He credited **TRIBUNE** disclosures of patient neglect and abuse in nursing homes for sparking the probe.

Thompson will be assisted in the investigation by Fred J. Studevart, a veteran postal inspector, and Matthias Lyden and Richard Ciecka, both assistant U. S. attorneys.

"The patients and their families are relying on the representations made by these nursing homes and if criminal activities are involved and the public is being swindled, we are going to do something about it," said Thompson.

Tells Probe's Focus

Thompson said the investigation will seek to determine if patients receiving payments from Medicare, Social Security and public aid and private patients have been billed for services and products they did not receive. He said nursing homes advertising such specialized care programs as physical therapy will be scrutinized to determine if patients do receive such care.

In another development, the deputy director of the Cook County Public Aid Department said patients living in the investigated nursing homes "appear to have been coached" in their answers to questions asked by public aid investigators in initial interviews.

The deputy director, Harold Boysaw, said his conclusion that many patients were coached has prompted an "in-depth" followup investigation that may take three months. He said in-



William J. Bauer



James R. Thompson

vestigating teams reported there were no patient complaints at five of the first six homes visited.

Boysaw indicated that the most obvious evidence of coaching was reported at the Monterey-Drexel Nursing Home, 4616 S. Drexel Blvd., one of a chain of homes operated by Joseph Bonnan. As an aide to Mayor Daley in 1959, Bonnan authored the city's nursing home code.

Boysaw said five of the 10 patients interviewed at Park Home, 2320 S. Lawndale Av., complained of a lack of heat, poor food and no medical care. An employe of the home told **THE TRIBUNE** yesterday that the owners of Park Home or-

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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 abuses in Chicago area nursing homes. In addition to working in nearly 20 homes, investigators also spent time in some homes as patients. Their report on page 2 deals with those experiences.

Nursing Homes Get Subpenas in Probe by U. S. Grand Jury.

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dered large quantities of new linen Tuesday, but said employees were told to keep it in the storage cabinet because it would be returned "after this blows over."

The subpenas prepared by federal prosecutors yesterday order the nursing home operators to produce their books and records and any other statements related to their fees.

Among those already ordered to produce such records are the N-H Management Corp., 1200 W. Belden Av., one of the city's largest nursing home chains and the company headed by Bonnan; The Melbourne Nursing Center, 4621 N. Racine Av., owned and operated by Daniel A. Slader, treasurer of

the Metropolitan Chicago Nursing Home Association; and four nursing homes with a common office at 1612 S. Michigan Av.

The four homes are the North Shore Rest Haven, 7421 N. Rogers Av., Englewood Rest Haven, 7253 S. Yale Av.; Midwest Rest Haven, 310 S. Hamlin Av.; and St. Michael's Rest Haven, 4815 S. Drexel Blvd.

Also served with subpenas yesterday were the owners of the Bee Dozier Nursing Home in Palatine where a TRIBUNE Task Force reporter, working as a nurse's aide, was told by an employe that the home's drug supplier provides a double set of bills.

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and their families. The employe also charged that the drug supplier and the nursing home owners split the extra fees.

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Investigators also plan to summon several doctors, including one who receives \$300 a month for patient care in a nursing home but spends less than 10 minutes a week in the home. An employe at the home described how she fills out the doctor's reports so that he only has to sign them.