VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

NURSING HOMES

CHICAGO — The Tribune's exposure of the wretched treatment accorded the aged inmates in nursing homes cries out for corrective action rather than futile lamentation.

If those responsible for this inhumane abuse were called to account, top priority should be given the derelict public officials who are charged with the duty of inspecting and regulating these nursing homes. As reprehensible as the greedy human vultures who own these places may be, they could not operate without gross incompetence, indifference or corruption on the part of public officials who are paid to see that these homes comply with the law.

The vigorous prosecution of these elected and appointed political parasites for malfeasance should go far to clean up these "warehouses for the dying."

LOUIS N. BLUMENTHAL

EVERGREEN PARK—Your "Task Force" report on nursing homes is indeed grim reading. The neglect and shameful behavior that is being exposed is deplorable. I hope your expose will bring about the adoption of measures that will end this inhumanity.

But is there not more that can be done? Cannot those of us blessed with good health make a point of visiting nearby homes, or visiting those long interned in hospitals? These are our fellow human beings. Can't a group of concerned individuals chat, listen, even pray together with these, our brothers?

Loneliness is all around us. Loneliness is everybody's business.

PAT PAUL

CHICAGO — In commenting on abuses in nursing homes, a widely circulated newspaper performs an acutely needed public service when laying bare proven malfunction of what actually are hidden warehouses for the dying. I believe that once the public is sufficiently informed, aroused and organized it can stop the dehumanizing rape of the elderly by the mindless and the money-hungry.

LEON ARNOLD MULLER

CHICAGO—It is reassuring to note THE TRIBUNE's concern for the plight of our neglected aged. It is abominable that, in this great land of plenty, some of the very people who contributed most of their working lives to the building of our nation are now left, neglected, waiting for death as their only relief. Perhaps your current series is the much-needed step toward rectification of a bad situation.

TERESA COUTRE

PARK FOREST—The series on nursing homes brings credit to THE TRIBUNE. This is investigative journalism at its finest. The series should bring you the gratitude of all Chicagoans, especially of the families of patients in homes.

I find words inadequate to express my anger that such things could happen in a civilized community. There is neglect of enforcement and inspection all along the line.

MELVIN W. MORGAN

BEECHER, Ill.—It's good to see exposes of the crummy tenements and the cruel nursing homes. While Mayor Daley prattles about our great city and his grandiose plans, his inflated army of inspectors blindly ignores the terrible things they are paid to prevent or stop.

Never before in the field of city management has so little been done by so many.

A. R.

CHICAGO—Today's sad article about nursing homes makes me cry. Many readers may think, "Oh, well, it's them, not us." Who knows? Tomorrow it might be us. Here's hoping something will be done about the situation.

MRS. JULIA VENKUS