

Senate Sets Hearings on Nurse Homes

BY PHILIP WARDEN

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

WASHINGTON, March 9—Sen. Percy [R., Ill.] announced today that the Senate Select Committee on the Aging plans to hold public hearings in Chicago soon on nursing home abuses.

Percy said that he had shown THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE articles on Illinois nursing homes to Sen. Frank Church [D., Idaho], committee chairman, and Church agreed immediately to order the Chicago hearings.

"He feels the Senate should be informed," Percy reported.

Percy said the time and place for hearings has not been decided. But they will begin within a month, possibly sooner, he said.

Percy put the entire series of TRIBUNE articles on the nursing home survey made by the Better Government Association and TRIBUNE reporters under the direction of William Jones into the Congressional Record. The series described the nursing homes as "warehouses for the dying."

Calls Disclosures Shocking

Percy said the disclosures made by the B. G. A. and THE TRIBUNE were "shocking."

"I called for an immediate investigation," Percy said. "I told the chairman I wanted it done now, and done in Chicago. These conditions may exist all over the country. The Senate should be taken to Chicago."

Percy said the federal government has assumed responsibility for the indigent and the

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Congressional Record where all members of Congress could read them, he had given copies to Chairman Church for his own personal use.

Writes to Sen. Moss

Percy made public a letter to Sen. Frank E. Moss [D., Utah], chairman of the Senate subcommittee on long-term care of the aging, in which Percy wrote:

"As you may be aware, investigators from the Illinois Better Government Association and THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE have recently completed an extensive on-the-spot study of 21 nursing homes in the Chicago area. The results are truly shocking: Old people are being mistreated, physically abused, and generally left to live out their days in a degrading, hostile environment."

Percy said he was aware of Moss' "deep personal interest" in long-term care for the elderly.

"I believe that the record you are compiling would benefit from a subcommittee study of the disclosures made by the Chicago investigators," Percy said. "I therefore respectfully request that you conduct hearings in Chicago at your earliest convenience. . . . may I suggest April 16 or 19 as possible dates for hearings."



Sen. Charles Percy

aging thru the wide variety of old age security and medical care programs now on the law-books.

Tells of Obligation

"It has an obligation to investigate the nursing homes in Chicago," Percy said.

Percy praised the part played by THE TRIBUNE in uncovering the conditions in the nursing homes as "great reporting." He said that in addition to putting the series in the