

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Writers should confine themselves to 200 or 300 words. Give full names and addresses. No manuscripts can be returned. Space for letters is obviously limited. Incoming mail far exceeds it. The right to condense letters is reserved. Address letters to Voice of the People, THE TRIBUNE.

NURSING HOME SCANDAL

CHICAGO—We congratulate THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE for your exposure of the disgraceful conditions prevailing in some nursing homes.

The Chicago Area Council of Senior Citizens Organizations, Inc., consisting of 76 senior citizens' community



Nordheimer

groups with 15,000 members, has a bill pending in the state legislature covering this subject. Rep. Jacob Wolfe will introduce a bill sponsored by our organization urging the governor to appoint a commission to investigate nursing homes, halfway houses and retirement homes and to drastically tighten up on licenses and inspections.

We are most happy that your paper, together with other news media, has taken up the cudgels for our neglected elderly in these institutions and can assure you that you will have the full cooperation of our organization.

ROY B. NORDHEIMER
(President)

CHICAGO—THE TRIBUNE is to be congratulated on its series of articles regarding the conditions of local nursing homes. These horrible, unspeakable conditions are almost too much to read. Some of us did not realize they existed to such an extent.

As a woman over 65, still working and paying into Social Security, I protest that the money I am paying toward Social Security is being used by unscrupulous owners in such a way. What can we tax-paying citizens do to help in this situation? Please tell us.

OLIVE FUSENHEISER

NAPERVILLE — I was stunned when I beheld the headlines of your nursing home report (March 11): "Profit Motive Is Blamed for Neglect, Filth." Have your sources accurately diagnosed motives?

This mention of profit, with all its connotation of socioeconomic ideology, falls into one of the most tragic fallacies of our times. Pause to reflect that there are nonprofit, public institutions also plagued by neglect and filth, and some profitmaking homes are excellent.

NIGEL AKERMAN

MILWAUKEE — It was with a mixture of shock, horror and pity that I read THE TRIBUNE's task force report on nursing homes in the Chicago area. It is a shame that dignity, respect and care are denied to some elderly people.

Why can't some volunteers from church groups and women's clubs get into these homes to help out? No doubt their presence would also help keep the nursing home operators on their toes. Surely there should also be a strong state investigation of existing abuses.

Mrs. M. HANSER

CHICAGO—I wish to commend THE TRIBUNE's task force for its masterly exposure of the horrors of some Chicago nursing homes. It made me recall that during both World Wars there were programs by which a family could adopt a lonely soldier, write him and send him gifts to cheer his lonely existence. Could not something like this be done for our lonely old and sick?

I know there are many who would like to participate in such a cause, if it could only be organized. We just do not know where or how to stretch out our hands in friendship.

SISTER VIRGINIA CANNING

CHICAGO—Thank you for printing the series about the homes for the aged and for doing the work necessary to get the information. I had no idea such things were going on. What can we do to help?

LUCY SCHNEIDER