

Ambulance Probe Due in Illinois

BY JOHN ELMER

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Springfield, Ill., June 15—A state-wide investigation into mistreatment of ill and injured persons by private ambulance crews was promised today by Sen. W. Russell Arrington [R., Evanston], the majority leader.

Sen. John W. Carroll [R., Park Ridge] told THE TRIBUNE that a special subcommittee of the legislative advisory committee on public aid will begin the probe within the next week or two.

Carroll, committee chairman, said the subcommittee will conduct hearings both here and in Chicago, and use its subpoena powers if necessary to compel testimony by ambulance company owners and drivers.

The action was promised

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Illinois Ambulance Investigation Vowed

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after Lt. Gov. Paul Simon ruled out of order an effort by Sen. John J. Lanigan [R., Chicago] to introduce a resolution calling for such an investigation.

During brief debate, Simon, Lanigan, and Sen. Cecil A. Partee [D., Chicago] commended THE TRIBUNE for its recent series of articles disclosing abuse of patients by some Chicago ambulance attendants.

Carroll said he plans a "thorough investigation" of the patient mistreatment uncovered by THE TRIBUNE and the Better Government association during a two-month probe which focused primarily Chicago welfare recipients.

Seek Abuses Elsewhere

He emphasized that the legislative study will look for abuses elsewhere in the state and is designed to find ways to curb mistreatment thru new laws and strengthening existing ones.

Arrington promised the probe by Carroll's subcommittee after Simon ruled that the Lanigan resolution did not deal with subject matter of the special ses-

sion called by Gov. Ogilvie. Under the constitution, the legislature can consider only the issues requested by the governor in the special call.

The Republican majority leader backed the Simon ruling, which came after Partee objected to the Lanigan resolution being introduced.

Noting that the Chicago city council already has set hearings beginning June 23, Partee questioned whether the legislative inquiry was necessary.

Both he and Simon, however, hailed the newspaper series by Reporter William Jones as "a great public service."

In calling for the probe, Lanigan asserted that the legislature has "a responsibility to all the people of Illinois" to extend the investigation of ambulance abuses to all areas of the state.

Three Republicans and three Democrats were appointed to the special subcommittee. Named were: Carroll, chairman; Senators Egbert P. Groen [R., Pekin] and Fred J. Smith [D., Chicago]; and Representatives Don A. Moore [R., Midlothian], Corneal A. Davis [D., Chicago], and James G. Krause [D., East St. Louis].