

House Panel O.K.'s Rest Home Probe

BY JOHN ELMER

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March

10—The House Public Welfare

Committee today approved a

resolution calling for a special

committee to investigate nurs-

ing homes and the Public Health

Department's practices and

rules in regulating and inspect-

ing them.

The measure, sponsored by

Rep. Robert Juckett (R., Park

Ridge), was sent to the House

floor on an 8 to 3 vote.

Juckett introduced the reso-

lution early in January, before

THE TRIBUNE's disclosures of

neglect and mistreatment of pa-

tients at about 20 nursing

homes in the Chicago area. At

that time, Democrats fought a

move for immediate action on

the resolution.

Not by Human Concerns

"I personally know of several

cases where the department's

inspectors have measured nurs-

ing homes only by yardsticks

and not by human concerns,"

Juckett said.

"The result can be seen on

the front pages of the news-

papers," he said. "Those places

meeting certain physical re-

quirements but whose staff

bullies and mistreats their aged

residents are thriving, while

homes whose kitchens may be

a bit small but whose staff is

dedicated to the welfare of the

residents are being put out of

business by unreasonable physi-

cal standards and the stubbor-

ness of some inspectors."

Juckett maintained the an-

swer is not to close down nurs-

ing homes, but asserted that

the long-range problem must be

solved by reevaluating licens-

ing standards and looking into

the practices and attitudes of

inspectors.

Opposes Health Dept. Probe

Juckett strongly opposed a

probe by the Department of

Public Health.

"Any attempt to have the

Department of Public Health

investigate its past deficiencies

in its operations is like having

a fox guard a chicken coop,"

he said. "The director is either

guilty of nonfeasance by not

inspecting nursing homes in

Cook County, and should re-

sign, or he is guilty of mal-