

Nurse Home Bars Transfer of Patients

BY WILLIAM JONES AND PAMELA ZEKMAN

The owner of a nursing home ordered closed by city health officials locked the doors yesterday and refused for six hours to permit the transfer of 33 public aid patients, even though 15 said they wanted to leave.

The action by Mrs. Marian Ivory, owner of the Ivory Nursing Home, 5839 S. Cahmet Av., was described as an "outrageous act, an act of incarceration," by Jack B. Schmetterer, first assistant state's attorney. The prosecutor's office is representing the County Public Aid Department in the case.

Call Emergency Hearing

During an emergency hearing late yesterday before Judge Samuel E. Epstein, in Circuit Court, an attorney for Mrs. Ivory said no further effort would be made to prevent the transfer, but asked that the patients not be moved until this morning. The attorney said Mrs. Ivory would continue to seek a temporary injunction blocking Chicago

Board of Health efforts to close the home.

Judge Epstein continued the injunction hearing to 10 a. m. today and told both sides to meet before then to discuss what code violations must be corrected.

"Closing the home may not be in the best interests of the community," Epstein said. He said he hoped the black-owned business could continue to operate, but vowed it would not be permitted to do so unless it attained "100 per cent compliance with city regulations."

Had Asked to Leave

Several private ambulance crews arriving at the Ivory Home yesterday morning said they were ordered out of the building and the doors were locked. The ambulances had been sent to the home by the Public Aid Department to transfer the 33 patients to other nursing homes.

Gordon Milner, an assistant state's attorney, investigating

(Continued on page 4, col. 6)



(TRIBUNE Staff photo; By James O'Leary)

Ambulance crew leaves Ivory Nursing Home after owner refused to allow transfer of

33 public aid patients to other institutions. City health department has ordered the home closed.

Nursing Home Defies City, Blocks Transfer of Patients

[Continued from first page]

TRIBUNE and Better Government Association disclosures of patient abuse in some Chicago area nursing homes, said 15 of the patients scheduled to be transferred yesterday had told investigators earlier they wanted to get out of the home.

Milner said Mrs. Ivory's action amounted to an "illegal obstruction of the rights of these people to leave."

"If I locked up 15 people, it would be an outrageous act," Schmetterer said.

Found Dangerous

Dr. Murray Brown, city health commissioner, said he ordered the home closed Monday after concluding it was "dangerous to the health and welfare of the patients." The home is one of four ordered closed by Brown in the midst of the Chicago area nursing home scandal exposed by THE TRIBUNE and B. G. A.

Edward King, deputy health

commissioner, said the home failed to qualify for license renewal when inspectors found filthy living conditions, poor maintenance, broken chairs and paint peeling from the walls. King said the nursing home has a 15-year history of nursing home code violations and has made only token efforts to correct them.

Terms Order Unjust

Mrs. Ivory said the reasons given by the Board of Health for closing the home were "vague and uncertain" and lacked substantial or "concrete reasons" for the order.

She said she received no formal written charges and termed the order "oppressive, unjust and unfair."

King said the patients in three other nursing homes ordered closed this week were rapidly being transferred to other homes.

All of the 71 patients have been relocated from the Park

House Nursing Home, 2320 S. Lawndale Av., he said. Only four of the 41 patients at the North Shore Rest Haven, 7428 N. Rogers Av., remain to be transferred, and all 38 patients of the Mount Pisgah Nursing Home, 4220 S. Champlain Av., will be moved tomorrow, King said.