

Congressmen Call for Probe Of Hospitals

House Subcommittee Raps U. S. Program As 'Foolish, Stupid'

WASHINGTON, Apr. 8 (UP)—Members of a House Appropriations Subcommittee proposed today that the Budget Bureau straighten out what they described as a "foolish and stupid" government hospital program.

They said the closing of some hospitals by the military establishment and the building of new ones by the Veterans Administration doesn't seem to make much sense. They suggested that it is time to make an overall study.

The subcommittee members strongly criticized the hospital program during recent closed-door sessions with military and Veterans Administration officials. A transcript of what took place was made public today.

Seek Explanation

Rep. Harry R. Sheppard (D. Cal.) told the officials:

"It is high time that this committee began calling together the Bureau of the Budget and a few other people that have something to do with the expenditure of these funds and find out what it is all about."

He said there has been a "foolish and stupid expenditure of funds throughout this entire operation."

Subcommittee Chairman George H. Mahon (D. Tex.) agreed. He said the "juvenile way the government is handling this situation is perfectly disgusting."

Veterans Administration spokesmen, including Administrator Carl R. Gray Jr., defended their new building program on the grounds that the hospitals to be abandoned are inadequate to meet the needs.

Estimate Reduced

The military previously estimated that its hospital-cutback program would save \$25 million. Later this figure was reduced to \$8 million. The subcommittee wanted to know why.

Assistant Secretary of Defense W. J. McNeil and other officials insisted that there had been a misunderstanding. They said the \$25 million estimate included many things not reflected in cash savings such as pay for personnel and costs of maintenance.

A house Armed Services subcommittee is investigating the cutback in military hospitals. Subcommittee Chairman L. M. del Rivers (D. S. C.) said his subcommittee plans to take "affirmative action" to stop the cutback, but he declined to say what the action would be.

Mr. Sheppard asked Dr. R. L. Meiling, Defense Department Director of Medical Services, whether he believes the time has come for closer co-ordination of the government's hospital program.

"I think it is past time," Dr. Meiling replied.

Eastern Stainless Steel Shows \$406,705 Loss

BALTIMORE, Md., Apr. 8 (UP)—Eastern Stainless Steel Corp. today reported a net loss of \$406,705 for 1949, compared with a net profit of \$950,510, or \$1.69 a share, earned the year before.

Net sales for the year declined to \$12,057,794 from \$14,766,843 in 1948, according to the company's annual report.

The report noted, however, that shipments of stainless steel from the company's Baltimore plant in the first quarter of 1950 increased nearly 80 per cent over the preceding three months.

John M. Curley, president, said that improved operating procedures and the increased shipments have resulted in profits which are "quite satisfactory." He added that the current backlog of orders is such as to insure a well-rounded production schedule for several months.

DEWEY VETOES FLAG OATH

ALBANY, Apr. 8 (UP)—A bill requiring a daily pledge of allegiance to the flag from all students in New York state public schools was vetoed today by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. Patriotism cannot be compelled, he said.



The Bridegroom Dropped the Ring

Senate to Probe Gaming Industry

To See If Problem Needs U. S. Action

WASHINGTON, Apr. 8 (UP)—A Senate subcommittee takes a look at the multi-billion dollar gambling industry next week to see if it is too big for the country's local officials to handle.

The subcommittee—headed by Sen. Ernest W. McFarland (D. Ariz.)—is part of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee. It will consider bills sent to Congress by Attorney General J. Howard McGrath to clamp down on gambling.

Bill Would Ban Slots

One of these measures would prohibit the interstate transmission of "certain gambling information." Committee officials said this is designed to shut down services that feed racing results to bookie shops all over the country.

Another bill would bar the shipment of slot machines—"one-arm bandits"—across state lines.

Both measures grew out of the crime conference called by Mr. McGrath last month. At that conference, numerous city officials said the gambling industry sprawled over so many state lines that they could not control it.

Sen. McFarland said in a statement today that the subcommittee will hold a closed session Tuesday. He said it will be attended by Justice Department officials and the FBI.

Find Rich Oil Site in Australia

Times Foreign Service

BRISBANE, Australia, Apr. 8—The first deep bore in Australia.

The company will spend over \$2 million in sinking the bore to a depth of 10,000 feet. If it strikes oil in payable quantities, the company plans to build a 25-mile long

pipeline to the port of Gladstone.

The location is near Rome, in western Queensland, where the search for oil has been going on more than a year.

Playing it safe, Shell is not committing itself to anything but cautious statements. However, Dealers Association will meet here General Manager E. N. Avery April 17. A dinner meeting at 7 says his company is now sinking p. m. will climax the activities.

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