

Hospital Fund Plea Wired by Gov. McKay

Gov. Douglas McKay Wednesday sent a telegram to President Truman urging him to reconsider his decision to reduce an appropriation for federal hospital aid to states at a time when an acute shortage of beds was accentuated by the needs of wounded soldiers returned to the United States from Korean fighting fronts.

Governor McKay advised the president he was vitally concerned over the possibility that Mr. Truman would exercise authority given him by congress to reduce the hospital appropriation from \$150,000,000 to \$75,000,000.

"Hospitals urgently needed for essential civilian use and civil defense may be lost," Governor McKay telegraphed. "Existing facilities inadequate for present needs and could not meet any war-related demand."

State Civil Defense Director Louis E. Starr and State Health Officer Harold E. Erickson supported the request. Starr pointed out that additional beds outside the Portland area are a prerequisite for handling a domestic emergency.

Dr. Erickson told the governor the contemplated slash would lower Oregon's share of the federal funds from an estimated \$1,500,000 to \$750,000, and after congress had approved the \$150,000,000 figure the state board of health had been told to move forward with the Oregon hospital program on the basis that the state would receive \$1,500,000.

The 50 per cent cut, Erickson said, would disrupt building plans at Redmond, Lebanon, Gold Beach, Newport, Tillamook and Portland. Portland projects involved would include the physicians and surgeons hospital and the University of Oregon medical school.

"It means that vital small hospitals won't be built," Dr. Erickson said. "With a 10,000 bed shortage in the state the consequences could be extremely grave."

CHASE RESERVE

WASHINGTON, (INS) — Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine is a new member of the Women's Air Force Reserve. The attractive, blue-eyed Republican applied for a commission in July and was sworn in shortly afterward. Members of Congress, however, are not generally called to duty with the National Guard or the Reserve, so Mrs. Smith won't have to take leave from her work in the Senate.

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