

# Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON—Hearings procedures to protect the medical and legal rights of the mentally ill who reside in the District of Columbia. A major source of the problem was found to lie in the prevalent attitude concerning mental illness. Most individuals suffering from this illness have been faced with archaic laws based upon the popular conception that to admit to such an illness carried a social stigma which was often impossible to erase in the community. Another major problem was that it was often impossible to gain admission to a public hospital for treatment on a voluntary basis. On the other hand, judicially ordered hospitalization meant an automatic loss of the basic rights of a citizen. Under that system, the District of Columbia law assured the mentally ill but one right, the right to be forgotten. The subcommittee findings from those hearings became the basis of a new law, Public Law 88-597, which was enacted on September 15, 1964. Its passage represented a step forward for the civil liberties of these often forgotten individuals.

Primarily, the 1964 act was designed to encourage voluntary hospitalization; to define and protect the rights of a patient once he was in the hospital; and to ensure, as far as legally possible, that no stigma was attached to the fact that he had been hospitalized for mental illness. Under that act the judicial finding of a need for hospitalization was separated from the finding of legal incompetence. Thus Congress recognized that mental illness does not necessarily mean that one lacks the ability to exercise his rights.

The law also carefully defined for civil patients such rights as communication privileges; visitation rights; the capacity to seek release under certain conditions; and more important, the right to medical treatment, and not just custodial care.

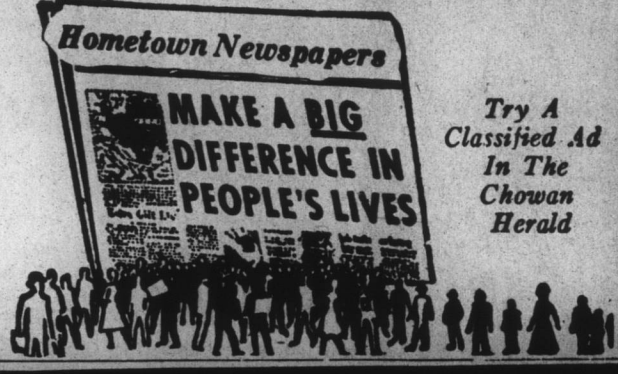
Sufficient time has now elapsed to see how well the act is functioning here in Washington. We shall now attempt to discover to what extent the constitutional rights of the mentally ill, the prospective mentally ill, and their families are being respected in the District of Columbia and elsewhere. I trust that these hearings will give a much needed accounting upon this important subject.

While the federal government's responsibility in this area of the law is limited to the District of Columbia, these hearings will be in the nature of a national accounting of procedures relating to the liberty and hospitalization of the mentally ill. The 1964 act was a model code for the mental health procedures in this country. I am pleased that it resulted from the investigations and hearings conducted during my tenure as chairman of this Senate subcommittee. Those investigations pointed up some acute problems arising out of the cumbersome laws and procedures surrounding the treatment of those suffering from mental illness. While our investigation disclosed some serious "due process" of law problems involving such persons in many states, its primary purpose was to modernize

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## Tips And Tricks

A fresh-up box for your school locker or desk drawer helps keep clutter down — keeps all your grooming accessories neat and tidy. To make a box with handy compartments, glue small cardboard boxes side by side. Use long narrow ones for brush and comb; square ones to hold make-up items. A fresh-up box makes a wonderful gift for a friend when you cover it with gaily printed, adhesive-backed paper. You might even slip her favorite lipstick or fragrance into one of the compartments to make your gift extra-special.

All ready to unpack that pretty special vacation wardrobe — and no skirt hangers? Don't take the next plane home—just use some giant safety pins. Pin your shorts, pants and skirts to wire hangers, the way dry cleaners do. They will hang straight and keep their shape without any wrinkles.



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ASSETS	September 30, 1969	September 30, 1964
Cash and due from banks	\$ 12,644,430.42	\$ 4,513,452.83
Investment Securities:		
U. S. Treasury securities	6,267,369.65	4,797,541.75
Securities of other U. S. Government agencies and corporations	3,830,000.00	.00
Obligations of States and political subdivisions	12,781,639.28	2,616,229.61
Other securities	275,372.47	.00
Trading account securities	2,401,480.14	.00
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	2,250,000.00	.00
Other loans	63,493,483.60	17,567,789.46
Bank premises and equipment	2,379,787.19	419,945.50
Accrued interest receivable and other assets	2,075,786.93	463,611.05
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$108,399,349.68</b>	<b>\$30,378,570.20</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Demand deposits	40,768,442.33	12,195,888.06
Savings deposits	16,186,295.18	7,351,196.14
Other time deposits	35,661,087.49	6,304,562.93
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>	<b>92,615,825.00</b>	<b>25,851,647.13</b>
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreement to repurchase	1,445,000.00	.00
Other liabilities for borrowed money	951,610.97	.00
Mortgage indebtedness	191,560.72	.00
Other liabilities	3,109,238.60	649,135.22
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>98,313,235.29</b>	<b>26,500,782.35</b>
<b>RESERVES ON LOANS AND SECURITIES</b>		
Reserve for possible loan losses	881,777.56	262,580.90
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>		
Equity Capital:		
Capital Stock (613,075 shares of \$5 par value)	3,065,375.00	1,850,000.00
(185,000 shares of \$10 par value)		1,500,000.00
Surplus	5,075,825.00	265,206.95
Undivided Profits	1,063,336.83	3,615,206.95
	9,204,336.83	3,615,206.95
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$108,399,349.68</b>	<b>\$30,378,570.20</b>

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