

Community's Response

Official Accuses Dominican Of 'Chess Maneuvering'

Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital and Sister Josephine Sullivan, its administrator, were today accused of again resorting to "chess match maneuvering" in an effort to gain 47 additional medical-surgical beds which a state health planning mathematical formula says this area does not need.

The accusation was by Anthony Daigle, Community Hospital of Santa Cruz administrator, in a response to a call by Sister Josephine for an independent survey to determine how many "paper" beds Community has and whether Community's support services, such as laboratory, surgery and radiology are adequate to care properly for the 180 patients for which Community holds licensed beds.

Daigle told The Sentinel this morning: "In reference to the independent survey requested by the Sisters of Saint Dominic/Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital and Sister Josephine Sullivan, the administrator:

"This is another example of what the grand jury was talking about in its 1979-80 report when it called the Sisters of Saint Dominic/Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital previous negotiations with the county for these beds "a maneuver in a chess match more than a component of constructive planning addressing consumer interests as a first priority.

"In regards to the adequacy of support services, Community Hospital of Santa Cruz has more than adequate support services, such as laboratory, surgery and

pathology.

"Our radiology department is considered to be the best in the Tri-County area."

So-called "paper" beds are defined as hospital beds for which licenses have been issued but beds which are either nonexistent or cannot be set up and staffed within 24 hours, according to Alan Samuels, executive director of the Mid-Coast Health Systems Agency.

Samuels said he wants to eliminate such beds wherever they may be found here.

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