

# 3 AMBULANCE FIRMS BANNED IN AID CASES

## County Welfare Chief Orders Investigation

BY WILLIAM JONES

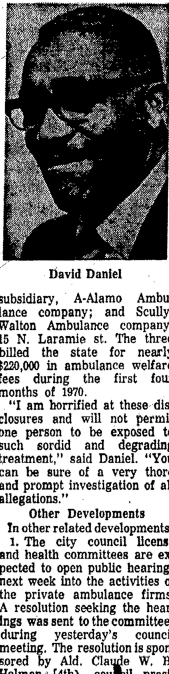
David L. Daniel, county public aid director, yesterday banned three Chicago ambulance companies from transporting public aid patients following TRIBUNE disclosures of sadistic treatment of the ill and injured.

Daniel said the order will remain in effect until his office completes a thoro investigation of the treatment of welfare patients by the companies.

The public aid chief said there will be no interruption of emergency transportation of welfare patients because the calls usually referred to the three will be handled by other ambulance companies.

### Names Three Firms

The companies are Mid-America Ambulance company, 5651 W. Madison st., and its



David Daniel

subsidiary, A-Alamo Ambulance company; and Scully-Walton Ambulance company, 15 N. Laramie st. The three billed the state for nearly \$220,000 in ambulance welfare fees during the first four months of 1970.

"I am horrified at these disclosures and will not permit one person to be exposed to such sordid and degrading treatment," said Daniel. "You can be sure of a very thoro and prompt investigation of all allegations."

### Other Developments

In other related developments:

1. The city council license and health committees are expected to open public hearings next week into the activities of the private ambulance firms. A resolution seeking the hearings was sent to the committees during yesterday's council meeting. The resolution is sponsored by Ald. Claude W. B. Holman (4th), council president pro tem, and Ald. Wilson Frost (21st). The aldermen urged their colleagues to seek out citizens who wish to testify at the hearings.

2. Dr. Eric Oldberg, president of the Chicago board of health, which also licenses private ambulances, said disclosures about the industry will be discussed at the Wednesday meeting of the board. Oldberg said he favors revoking the licenses of companies that are not providing proper care in transporting patients.

3. A spokesman for the health department disclosed that the city agency will file charges against Mid-America and its president, Victor Ferrara, and the Stokes Ambulance company, 5734 S. State st., and its president, James Stokes, accusing the firms of maintaining unsanitary premises and emergency equipment. The spokesman said the charges follow a sweeping series of inspections of ambulance firms that began Monday.

In speaking for his resolution, Ald. Holman told the city council, "We want to explore this from top to bottom without fear or favor. We must correct these abuses which have been so adequately described in THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE articles."

Holman also is chairman of the council's health committee, which is expected to direct the council's inquiry. Ald. Anthony Laurino (39th) is chairman of the license committee.