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# Halloran Hospital Force Cut 300 by New Order

By ERWIN ENDRESS

Three hundred employes in Halloran VA Hospital have received "reduced in force" orders as part of the federal cutback of employes there, it was learned today.

It was the biggest single reduction order of personnel to go into effect since the federal-state decision in mid-April to turn back part of the Halloran area to the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

The "reduced in force" order, which hospital officials say does not necessarily mean an "abrupt layoff," coincided with a report from Dr. Harold Berman, director of the Willowbrook State School, that the school will take over Building 3, containing Halloran's big auditorium, as well as five two-story permanent buildings there.

While Halloran's personnel has been reduced to 1,145 from a peak of 1,356 in mid-April, and will probably drop to about 1,000 after the "reduction in force" order goes into effect, Dr. Berman said Willowbrook's medical and work force has grown to 331, the greatest number since the school opened.

### Retain Rights

Kenneth S. Covey, assistant manager at Halloran, explained that under the "reduction in force" order, employes may take advantage of Civil Service rules and regulations under which they may make use of their "bumping rights." Under these rules and regulations, Covey said, employes can

retreat to positions they formerly held, when they have greater retention points than the individual occupying that position. They may retreat, in effect, to a job formerly held."

This is being done in many cases by employes at the hospital, he said. At the same time, many employes leaving Halloran are taking positions being offered them in the Veterans Administration's hospital in Peekskill, N. Y., and at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn.

### Jobs Available

"There is no question," he said, "but that any one of the employes leaving here who wants a job in another federal facility can obtain one. It is unfortunate, of course, that some persons are not anxious to accept jobs off Staten Island."

Covey said less than half the 300 affected by the "reduction in force" order will be, in effect, thrown out of work.

He said it is expected slightly below 1,000 employes will be on the payroll at Halloran after June 17.

At the Willowbrook School, Dr. Berman said state Budget and Public Works Department officials are currently surveying the buildings, including the auditorium building, with a view to their use by the Willowbrook school.

### End of Programs

Loss of the school by Halloran to Willowbrook will terminate years of special entertainment programs presented there to veterans and earlier to soldier-patients during

World War II, when the hospital was used by the War Department as a general hospital for Army men.

But the building, originally built as a school for the mentally retarded, will be Willowbrook's gain. Dr. Berman said the building is still fully equipped with classrooms, blackboards, coatrooms and other facilities suited to school use.

The building will also house a kindergarten, administrative offices, nursing staff headquarters, and will serve as a center for physical training, recreation, X-ray, dental and laboratory facilities.

Other buildings being surveyed for Willowbrook's use are buildings 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

Dr. Berman said that while it is not yet known exactly how many employes will be taken on at Willowbrook in conjunction with the school's expansion, a request for additional employes is already being studied in Albany.

### School Expanding

The current patient census at Willowbrook is 1,029. It is to be expanded to about 1,500, and possibly more. No official timetable on the school's expansion has yet been released, although it is known that a second assistant director will be appointed by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The assistant manager there now is Dr. Frank B. Glasser. Both Dr. Berman and Dr. Glasser, as well as the new assistant director, will have offices in the school building now being surveyed.