

September 6, 1952

D.A. Admits Inquiry May Be Widened

Hiring of Ex-Convict At Willowbrook School Seen Having Other Angles

Matters other than the employment at Willowbrook State School of Ralph J. Tuccillo, 48, ex-convict and former mental hospital inmate, now accused of beating two boy patients at the school, are being investigated by the district attorney's office in connection with the institution, it was revealed today.

This was admitted by District Attorney Sidney O. Simonson when he was questioned about his investigation of the Tuccillo employment and especially of how Tuccillo's past record was not uncovered when fingerprint records were sent to the State Civil Service Commission.

As to the Tuccillo angle, Simonson explained that he could say only that the investigation is progressing. He commented on the fact that a copy of the civil service commission's Tuccillo fingerprints had not yet been returned to the district attorney's office from New York Police Headquarters, where they are being checked.

Other Angles Seen

Since the original investigation has been underway, the district attorney revealed, other matters in reference to Willowbrook State School had been called to his attention. These, he said, are worthy of investigation and are being checked to ascertain if the claims are true.

Before the matter is concluded, it is possible that the office of the state attorney general may be called into the picture. In certain matters, Simonson said, a state institution comes within the jurisdiction of the attorney general's office.