

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1964

## Bread and Butter

### State Economists Are Impressed By SSSS in School Mattresses

#### Two Islanders Show 'Wizards' How to Save

By ERWIN ENDRESS

Economists in Albany, poring over records and statistics in an effort to stretch the taxpayer's shrinking dollar, did double-takes recently when they heard about two Staten Islanders who had devised a means of saving the Empire State \$3,000 a year.

Not that \$3,000 is a lot of money by state standards. What impressed them was that they were able to save any money at all at a time when departmental budgets grow larger and larger.

Wondering what it was all about, they were told by Kenneth W. Borey, business officer at Willowbrook State School that it had to do with mattress stuffing.

"With what?" asked a state economist.

"With mattress stuffing!" replied Borey to Albany.

THE TWO economic scroabots, he told him, are Frank Angelilli, 34, of 42 Roosevelt avenue, Meiers Corners, and Lucas Tesselone, 31, of 245 Willard avenue, Westerleigh.

The idea worked out by the two men soon will be adopted in at least five other state institutions, and eventually may save the state more than \$10,000 a year. With the gradual expansion of the Willowbrook school, it eventually will save more than \$3,000 there.

Angelilli, head industrial shop worker at Willowbrook, says it all came about because he got sick and tired of straining himself in trying to stuff mattresses without a proper mattress-stuffer.

Then, too, he was tired of trying to requisition a high-powered stuffer that would cost the state

ANGILLILLI, who is basically an upholsterer and who, at Willowbrook, has the job of repairing hundreds of beds, chairs, cushions and other school equipment, began to be fascinated by his cushion-stuffer, which is smaller and much cheaper than a \$1,500 mattress-stuffer.

The more he looked at the handy cushion-stuffer and at the orders for about 50 stuffed mattresses a month, the more he marvelled at the ingenuity of this machine.

Angelilli called in Tesselone, who is a tinsmith and roofer at Willowbrook, and asked him whether the cushion machine could be enlarged in some way. The two men, who are inspired by machinery, studied the gadget from every angle, and soon came up with plans for modifications which might make a mattress-stuffer out of it.

"I told the business officer about it," says Angelilli, "and he told us to go ahead. He would provide whatever we needed to make the modifications."

TESSALONE says he and Angelilli worked on the cushion-stuffer for about a week.

"We figured a cushion is cousin to a mattress, anyway," the two men say. "If the machine could stuff a cushion, it could be made to stuff a mattress."

Tesselone was accustomed to improvising. A welder and metalsmith in the Navy during World War II, he patched up holes on warships under fire at Okinawa, using whatever materials he could lay hands on.

He used up about \$12 worth of 15 gauge sheet metal, angle iron and some flat bar to modify the machine, following Angelilli's suggestions.

The men came up with a pedal-operated gadget capable of stuff



Effectiveness of their money-saving mattress-stuffer is checked by Frank Angelilli, left, of Meiers Corners, and Lucas Tesselone of Westerleigh.

ing an innerspring, cotton batting and sisal sheets into a huge mattress bag with little effort on the part of the operator.

IN the past, only about five mattresses a month were able to come out of Angelilli's shop, and the other 45 normally used at Willowbrook had to be purchased out of the school's tight budget.

Today, Angelilli is easily able to meet the school's mattress needs, and it's highly possible that he and Tesselone will go to other schools in the state to show them how to save money — and backache.

Officials in Albany were impressed with all this mattress-stuffing, and they presented each of the men with a New York

State Certificate of Merit — and a check for \$300 to split between them.

Then the employees and officials at Willowbrook threw a big dinner for Angelilli and Tesselone, and the pair sat at the head table and listened to state officials make speeches about their mattress-stuffing ingenuity.

STILL bewildered by the whole business, Angelilli says:

"It all happened because they wouldn't get me that \$1,500 machine. I just got tired of bending my back!"

Tesselone was happy with his check and the certificate.

"We've been looking at a couple of other machines lately," he says, hopefully.