

Staten Island Advance

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Two Propositions Before the Voters

Voters accustomed to studying a multitude of amendments and propositions when they go to the polls will get off easy on Tuesday.

There will be only two propositions of the voting machines. No amendments.

Both propositions, moreover, present clear-cut choices for the electorate.

Proposition No. 1, if approved, will authorize a state bond issue of \$350,000,000 to provide institutions for the care of mental illness, mental defects, epilepsy and other emotional disorders.

This proposal has been emphasized by Governor Dewey as a must because the state's present mental hospitals are overcrowded and the case load is growing. We now have about 112,000 patients squeezed into facilities that can properly handle a maximum of 86,000.

HOSPITALS now under construction will provide 16,000 more beds, but even this number will fall 10,000 short of meeting current needs. Statistics show that annually there are about 3,000 new patients in excess of the number discharged as cured.

The passage of this proposition would open the way for construction of a new \$1,275,000 building for mentally-retarded tubercular patients at Willowbrook State School, which handles all such patients from downstate areas and now has 112 under treatment. This would be in addition to a \$6,000,000 building program for Willowbrook long in the blueprint stage. Authorities say the proposed structure at the Island institution is desperately needed.

To meet the critical need, our recommendation is:

Luncheon to Benefit Willowbrook School

Children of Willowbrook State School will benefit from a luncheon scheduled by the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, for Nov. 13 in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The group's fifth annual luncheon, it is the main fund-raising event of the year. Proceeds pay for further medical research and rehabilitation programs for the children. During the program, Dr. Harold Berman, school director, will be honored for his work.

Today's Chuckle

Dad: "When we were kids, 10 cents was big money."

Junior: "How dimes have changed!"

Nov. 9, 1954

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1954

Curry in Albany to Push State School Job OK

State Senator-elect Edward V. Curry is in Albany today, trying to loosen an administrative log-jam that has delayed \$5,750,000 worth of construction at Willowbrook State School for two and a half years.

Curry entrained for the capital this morning in response to a plea by AFL building trades leaders. He is due to confer with officials of the State Public Works Department.

On the drawing board are plans for constructing six new infirmary buildings at the mental institution and for enlarging the laundry and power plant. The buildings would accommodate another 1,000 patients in the most modern child-care facilities of their kind.

Money was appropriated in March, 1952, but a long delay in approving plans has prevented the start of construction, undermining hopes that ground would

be broken before the end of this year.

YESTERDAY the Staten Island Board of Business Agents, a subdivision of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Council, asked Curry to intervene with state officials in an effort to hasten the start of construction. They met with Curry in the Meurot Club.

The project is expected to employ hundreds of buildings trades workers, reducing Island unemployment. There will be new jobs at the school for scores of Islanders when work is completed.

Completion of the six buildings will enable the State Mental Health Department to relieve overcrowding at other institutions.