

FIRST NEW WILLOWBROOK DORM DUE TO START IN '54

Bids on \$800,000 Job Set for Dec. 16, State Tells Curry

(Advance Albany Bureau)

ALBANY.—Work on the first of six new dormitories at Willowbrook State School should begin before the end of the year, State Senator-elect Edward V. Curry of Staten Island announced today.

Curry, who came to Albany to press for speedy action on the \$5,750,000 program, received assurances that final plans for the other five buildings will also be speed.

Comptroller White, state architect of the Public Works Department, told the senator-elect that bids for the first building will be advertised Monday and opened Dec. 16.

Although the Public Works Department is allowed 44 days to look over the bids, White said that they are likely to be signed and work begun by the end of the year. Ground will be broken by early January, at the latest, Curry was assured.

The building will cost an estimated \$800,000. Construction is expected to give work to hundreds of construction workers at Albany Wednesday.

THE first building will be started substantially ahead of the others because of its advanced design to the mental institution's present dormitories. Engineers and architects have been poring over plans for the new-style buildings for two and a half years. White said revisions still have to be made but reports said plans will be finalized within a few weeks.

He declined to predict when construction on the remaining buildings will start, however.

Officials of the state Public Works and Mental Hygiene departments want to be sure there are no flaws in the building plans before they are translated into contracts. The plans have been subjected to painstaking scrutiny by a myriad of officials since money for the buildings was appropriated in March, 1952.

When completed, the new dorms will enlarge Willowbrook's patient capacity by 1,000. The school's laundry and power plants are also part of the construction program.