

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y., MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1955

Bill Would Add Parents To Willowbrook Board

The Board of Visitors of the Willowbrook State School would include in its membership a parent of a mentally retarded person, if legislation introduced today in Albany is approved.

The bill is one of three proposals to amend the Mental Hygiene Law with respect to institutions for mentally retarded children. They were introduced by Sen. Earl Brydges (R., Niagara), Assemblywoman Genesta Strong (R., Nassau), and Assemblyman Stanley Steingut (D., Kings).

The growth of parents' groups in the country, as evidenced by the Association for the Help of Retarded Chil-

dren," said Steingut, "shows a particular understanding of the problem that should be utilized on every board of visitors."

Brydges stated that the thinking of people whose children are going to be in the institutions for the mentally retarded is most important.

Other bills offered would broaden the powers of the commissioner of mental hygiene to permit him to choose a qualified expert other than a physician as a director of a state school, and would amend the Education Law to widen facilities for the mentally retarded.

JANUARY 19, 1955

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Kiwanians to Present State School Banner

The Willowbrook State School will have an official banner after tomorrow's luncheon-meeting of the Staten Island Kiwanis Club.

The banner, a gift of the Kiwanis Club, will be presented at the meeting in the Meurot Club. It is a donation by Ernest and Robert Ostwald, club members.

The Willowbrook Band, organized at the institution will attend the presentation and will play under the direction of Vincent Lombardi.

Plans for the observance this year of the 40th anniversary of Kiwanis will be explained at the meeting by Kiwanis Lt. Gov. Russ Burch.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1955

Willowbrook Notified of Expansion Ban

Word that Governor Harriman's moratorium on capital construction has blocked Willowbrook State School's \$6,000,000 expansion and improvement program has been received by the school's officials, it was reported today.

Notification that the program had been "postponed" was received late yesterday by Dr. Harold H. Berman, Willowbrook's director. This confirmed an earlier report in Albany that the work had been shelved.

Formal notice to the school's officials that the program is at a standstill was wired by Dr. Arthur W. Pense, acting commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene, which operates Willowbrook.

Dr. Pense said the project had been shelved "until further instructions are received."

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THE POSTPONEMENT came as plans were completed for opening of bids tomorrow on the first of seven buildings under a \$5,000,000 expansion program. Opening of bids originally had been scheduled for Jan. 6, but was set back as the postponement neared.

Stymied also by the governor's decree has been a \$700,000 laundry expansion, as well as plans for purchase of \$110,000 in heavy equipment for the present laundry plant.