

APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK POST  
DURING APRIL, 1964

### Civilian Review

The principle of civilian review of cases of alleged police brutality is one we heartily endorse.

It should be extended, however, to include all hospitals, correction institutions, and the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The Dept. of Mental Hygiene, especially, has no machinery for such civilian review. The Attorney General has ruled that the Boards of Visitors are powerless. The result is that the department investigates itself with predictable results.

We urge, therefore, that the state either give such powers to the Boards of Visitors or appoint other civilian review boards to look into the cases of alleged brutality against helpless patients in the state schools and state hospitals.

JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD,  
Member, Board of Visitors,  
Willowbrook State School,  
& Exec. Dir., N. Y. S. Assn.  
for Retarded Children.

### Plight of Mental Patients

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

As one who has spent a good bit of time in Rockland State Hospital, I am angry and alarmed at Controller Arthur Levitt's cry to cut the few scraps of meat off the bone that the state tosses to its mental patients. Financial waste in the hospitals indeed!

It would be hard to see, for example, how a worse diet could be afforded the inmates than they now get, with its emphasis on watery chow mein, unappetizing meat loaf and eternal Spanish rice. As for psychiatric services, it is still possible in the "back buildings" for a patient to be one of 300 under the care of a single psychiatrist, see-

### The Times

ing that doctor perhaps three times in a six months' stay.

Despite the 13 schools of nursing affiliated with the department, when I was in Female Reception—the most active of the reception centers—there was one registered nurse on the admitting ward. The 200 or so patients were under the care of experienced practical nurses and nurse's aides. The occupational therapy and recreational services are minimal and understaffed. Volunteers do what they can.

The lot of the patient in a state mental hospital, when it is disorganized and painful, is dreary, flat, and dull. Better food, better psychiatric service, more occupational therapy and assistance of all kinds are wanted. It is appalling of Controller Levitt to purchase his economies at the expense of this mute and passive portion of our citizenry.

ELLEN WHELAN  
New York Feb. 4, 1964

# Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y., SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1964

## Interfaith Religious Center Planned at State School

Plans are under way for an interfaith religious center to be built on the grounds of Willowbrook State School with private funds.

The building would contain a chapel for each of the three major faiths, office space, classrooms and an area for social functions.

The drive for funds will be highlighted by a benefit din-

ner celebrating the 50th anniversary in show business of Al Kelly, a double talk artist, next Nov. 1 at the Astor Hotel, Manhattan.

The dinner is being sponsored by Jackie Bright, Kelly's manager, and all proceeds will be turned over to the Interfaith Religious Center of Willowbrook State School, an organization formed to raise the money and

build the center.

Heading the drive for the center are the three chaplains at Willowbrook, Rabbi Philip Goldberg; the Rev. Arnold E. Ostlund and the Rev. Edward J. Banks.