

Rocky's Pick Starts Mental Research Unit



MILESTONE IN MAKING—Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, with Borough President Maniscalco at right, prepares to break ground for the \$7-million Institute for Basic Research in Mental Re-

tardation on Forest Hill Rd. in Willowbrook. Behind Rockefeller are State Sen. William T. Conklin of Brooklyn, left, and Dr. Paul H. Hoch, commissioner of mental hygiene.

By JULIE SUMMERS

The Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation will be the first of its kind in the world and "will be focused primarily on seeking the basic causes behind the tragedy of mental retardation."

So said Gov. Rockefeller yesterday at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$7-million institute to be constructed on Forest Hill Rd., Willowbrook.

The speechmaking was moved indoors after a shivering crowd of several hundred watched the

governor — swinging a chrome-plated pickax — break ground on the actual site of the new building. Then everyone moved to the auditorium in the main school building at Willowbrook State School, which is adjacent to the building site.

The governor added his remarks to those made by Dr. Paul H. Hoch, commissioner of mental hygiene; Dr. George A. Jervis, director of the institute, and Borough President Maniscalco.

"It is to identify the many causes, to determine their inter-

relationships, and so to advance the treatment and prevention of mental retardation that this institution is being created," said Rockefeller.

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"IN THIS facility," he continued, "a number of scientific disciplines will carry out research from different points of view, using various techniques, but all primarily focused on the basic problems of mental deficiency."

Rockefeller emphasized that "we in the State of New York have made great strides in combating mental disability. The pioneering research has been a keystone of this progress, holding out to the mentally disabled and their families the promise of a better tomorrow."

Dr. Hoch said that "the key to progress in this field, as in any other field of scientific endeavor, is research."

"Recent advances in scientific technology have opened up many promising avenues for more fundamental approaches," he said. "Never before has the promise been so great for practical as well as theoretical advance in this field."

Dr. Jervis stated that the institute is "a new milestone in the New York State program in favor of mental retardation. It is the first institution devoted only to research in mental retardation in the country."

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THAT STATEN ISLAND is proud to be part of another step forward in man's war on illness and disease was the contention of Borough President Maniscalco.

"This institute will find all Staten Island ready, willing and able to contribute its efforts whenever called upon," he said.

The building, scheduled for completion late next year, will be five stories high and constructed of steel and pre-stressed concrete. It will include provisions for clinical research and educational projects as well as eight laboratories designed for flexibility of space and equipment.