

# Willowbrook to Enlarge Staff As Result of Boy's Death

A multi-faceted program, estimated to cost \$2 million, is being pressed at Willowbrook State School in the wake of the death of a 10-year-old mentally retarded boy May 14.

The program is aimed at relieving personnel shortages at the overcrowded institution and to prevent a recurrence of the incident in which 80 per cent of the boy's body was scalded while he was being given a shower.

Dr. Jack Hammond, school director, disclosed details of the program yesterday as District Attorney John M. Braisted Jr. continued his investigation into the death.

Dr. Hammond turned over to Braisted his records of a school-conducted investigation into the death at a conference in the district attorney's office.

Also present at the meeting was Dr. Charles E. Niles, assistant commissioner of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, who is conducting a departmental investigation.

**DR. NILES said he will submit a report and recommendations**

to Dr. Christopher F. Terrence, acting commissioner of the department.

Detective Vincent O'Grady of the New Dorp Precinct who, along with Detective George K. Neary of the district attorney's squad are assigned to the case, also attended the conference.

Dr. Hammond said he has been authorized by the department to hire, effective next Thursday, an additional 162 attendants. He said they will be assigned to the seven most overcrowded buildings at the school, those housing patients over the age of 10 who require total care.

In addition, Dr. Hammond said, he received authorization last week for two additional psychiatrists, six more head nurses and 20 more attendants to begin staffing the school's new patient reception service—a building where new patients are processed before being assigned to wards.

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DR. HAMMOND said the additional personnel is provided for in the 1965-66 departmental budget approved by the Legislature.

He said he was hopeful of obtaining more personnel when the Legislature acts on the department's supplemental budget.

Another step which he indicated he believed of great importance, in regard to providing "disciplined supervision of attendants," was recent authorization to promote 184 attendants who qualify to senior attendant, with supervisory duties. A person promoted to senior attendant, with five year's service receives an additional \$200 a year.

As an emergency measure and to prevent future shower accidents, Dr. Hammond said pressure and temperature regulating valves at all hot

water tanks have been replaced, and the water temperature set at 120 degrees.

In addition, he said, all shower water mixing valves have been inspected by the manufacturer and set so as not to exceed 100 degrees.

Dr. Hammond said engineers of the Mental Hygiene Department and the state Public Works Department are surveying cold water pipes for corrosion with a view toward replacing those in poor condition.

Dr. Hammond said applicants for attendants should have an education equivalent of the eighth grade. Applicants may apply at the school's personnel office. New attendants start at nearly \$4,000 a year.

## State School Bids Filed

ADVANCE NEWS BUREAU

ALBANY—Twenty-eight bids were submitted yesterday to the Department of Public Works for construction, heating, sanitary and electric work on additional educational facilities at Willowbrook State School, Staten Island.

A low of seven bids 591,000, was submitted by Gorlin-Okinx, Inc. for the construction work. Direks Heating Co., beat out three other bidders with \$94,500 for the heating job; the sanitary work went to Snyder Plumbing and Heating Co. with its \$188,280, lowest of seven bids, and the Litemore Electric Co., was lowest of 10 bids with \$144,000 for the electric work.

## Lions Unit Names Picnic Chairman

Dr. Bernard Tesse, assistant director of Willowbrook State School, addressed a meeting of the Staten Island Lions Club yesterday in the Meurot, Stapleton.

Nicholas G. DeJoy was named committee chairman for a picnic to be staged this summer at Henry's picnic grounds, New Springville.