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# Kennedy: Intolerable Child Aid

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sloner of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, commenting on Mr. Kennedy's remarks, cited new appropriations for expanding state facilities.

Dr. Terrence cited an increase of \$5 million in current appropriations for state facilities and said that money would pay salaries for 1,700 new personnel. He also said \$500 million had been appropriated for mental hospital construction, of which 40 per cent would go for facilities for the retarded, and he said he would unveil "in the next few days" a master plan for mentally retarded in the state.

But Sen. Kennedy cited a

U. S. grant of \$18,000 to the Rome school. He said the money still sits in Albany tied up by the Mental Hygiene Department. Willowbrook also has an application in for Federal funds but it has not yet been approved.

A sharper reaction to the Senator's testimony came from Dr. James A. Brussel in charge of the New York City office of the State Department of Mental Hygiene. He said, "It is the usual garbage and it's getting close to Nov. 2, you know." He also cited new facilities under construction in Suffolk County, in New York City and at three other New York sites.

At the end of his testimony, Sen. Kennedy deserted his text to make a few personal suggestions about care of the mentally retarded.

He said the institutions are

too large and should be broken up into smaller facilities nearer the communities they serve. He said dormitories should be limited to about 30 instead of the current 100 and more inmates and he suggested putting partitions in current structures to give patients more privacy. (Willowbrook has more than 6,000 inmates; Rome more than 5,000. The seven state institutions for the mentally retarded have a total population of more than 26,000).

Sen. Kennedy said patients should be called by their names or by some other appellation than "Boy!" and he thought they should have their own clothes and toys. He said somebody should take care of the smell in several facilities, which, he said was "overwhelming." The Senator also wanted unlocked doors

and less of straitjackets to restrain the unruly. He said something should be done about the inevitable "homosexuality and self-mutilation" rampant in the institutions.

But it was clear that what really outraged the junior senator from New York was that he believed nobody seemed to be doing anything constructive—that the state was providing minimal custodial care and leaving human beings to slowly rot and then die without having lived at all.