

Journal of American

NEW YORK'S LARGEST EVENING NEWSPAPER

No. 28,106—DAILY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1965 10 CENTS

Up to Albany

A call for a 10-year crash program to organize a network of 150 mental health centers across the state is contained in a seven-volume report filed with Gov. Rockefeller over the weekend by a State study committee probing mental care.

Acting State Mental Hygiene Commr. Christopher F. Terrence said 30 of the proposed centers would handle the mentally retarded — boosting present facilities by some 40 per cent.

Keystone of the new mental program would be the stress laid on out-patient treatment. No cost estimates were outlined. Instead the study group stressed what it called the "need for counties and regional groupings to assume primary responsibility—now—for planning and execution."

A copy of the report has also been transmitted to the Surgeon General in Washington for consideration as a prototype in any Federal program for the other 49 states.

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the proposed State plan include:

- Limitation of each center to a capacity of 1,000 patients, and each center to serve an average of 150,000 persons on a statewide basis.
- Institution of an emergency program to set up, no later than 1967, some form of cost-sharing for state hospital care, with counties, localities, the families themselves, and voluntary agencies participating with cash support.
- An initial \$3-million state budget for scholarships and grants for training and research into mental health work.

The master plan submitted to Gov. Rockefeller represents the work of more than 800 mental health authorities and private citizens. It was undertaken in 1963 with Federal

support, at the direction of the late Dr. Paul H. Hoch, then State Mental Hygiene Commissioner.

The wide-ranging report was handed to the Governor and published less than a week after Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D.-N.Y.) sharply criticized conditions in two state schools for the mentally retarded.

The Senator told a legislative hearing last Thursday that he had seen some patients at Rome, N. Y., and in a Staten Island institution "who were worse off than animals in a zoo."