

DEMOCRATS URGE AID FOR RETARDED

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seek a "certificate of intent" from the legislative leaders, so that remedial steps could be taken at once. In a certificate of intent, the leaders pledge that their party's legislators will vote for an appropriation to finance a program such as this.

Senator Joseph Zaretzki, the Senate majority leader, was conferring in his office late yesterday with Assembly Speaker Anthony J. Travia when they were asked whether they would approve the certificate.

"Sure, we'll sign it," replied Senator Zaretzki without hesitation.

Kraf Lists Priorities

Senator Kraf's telegram listed the following priorities for action by the Governor:

(1) "Double the number of attendants, particularly for the severely retarded."

(2) "Accede to the specific requests of the various directors of our state schools for additional occupational, speech and physical therapists and other professional personnel."

(3) "Institute a crash program for the removal of odors at the schools."

"These are the most pressing immediate needs," Mr. Kraf, a Bronx Democrat, told the Governor, "and they can be solved by direct action on your part."

The Governor's office made public its reply to Senator Kraf's telegram last evening. The \$3.5 million cut in the Mental Hygiene Department's appropriation, the Governor said, was restored near the end of the legislative session, "only upon my insistence and that of the Republican minority leaders." This delay, he charged, held up recruitment programs by three months.

"The number of attendants and ward personnel has been increased in the current budget by 17 per cent," the Governor's statement said. "We have the money for adding 1,700 new jobs, and since the supplemental budget was approved in late June, we have already filled 500 of these positions."

"A new program of staffing ratios for the educational, recreational and occupational programs developed over recent months is now in effect. This will triple the number of occupational therapy personnel, double the recreational staff and increase the number of teaching positions by 25 per cent."

"The problem is recruiting and training of the additional people for these positions. Every effort is being made to fill them as rapidly as possible."

New Department Sought

Another telegram that landed on the Governor's desk yesterday urged him to remove the state's program for the mentally retarded from the Department of Mental Hygiene. This appeal came from Mrs. Ruth Gross, president of the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

"The recent revelations of conditions in the state schools," her telegram said, "underline once more the total bankruptcy of this department with regard to the mentally retarded. It is barren of ideas and impotent in implementation."

The association, an organization of parents and friends of the mentally retarded, called on Mr. Rockefeller to create a new office of mental retardation in the executive branch.

The Association has repeatedly accused the Mental Hygiene Department of giving undue attention to the mentally ill while neglecting the mentally retarded.

Senator Kraf said late yesterday he approved of this pro-

State Democrats Propose Funds Now for Retarded

Legislative Chiefs Urge Governor to Put on 'Crash Program'—He Calls Move Hypocritical, Citing Budget Cut

By JOHN SIBLEY

The Legislature's majority leaders called on Governor Rockefeller yesterday to double the number of attendants in state institutions for the mentally retarded.

The Governor has only to ask, the Democratic leaders said, and they will authorize him to spend state funds for the emergency program immediately, without waiting for the Legislature to reconvene in January.

Mr. Rockefeller late yesterday denounced the Democrats' call as "shockingly hypocritical." Last winter, he said, "the Democratic majorities in the Legislature knocked out of my budget \$3.5 million in operating funds for the Department of Mental Hygiene—\$1.5 million of which was for more attendants, more nurses and more doctors for care of the mentally retarded."

The call for a "crash program" came first from State Senator

Harry Kraf, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation. It was before the Kraf Committee that Senator Robert F. Kennedy charged last week that the state was shamefully neglecting the needs of its mentally disabled youngsters.

Senator Kennedy disclosed that he had recently paid surprise visits to state schools for retarded children on Staten Island and at Rome and had found the young patients "slipping into blankness and life-long dependence."

Senator Kraf sent a telegram to the Governor yesterday, saying:

"I am certain that you, like the entire citizenry of New York State, have been shocked by the revelations."

He said the Governor should

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posed separation of responsibility and would work for its enactment. He noted that since the State Constitution limited the number of executive departments to 20, the new agency would have to be designated an "office" rather than a "department."

Senator Kraf said he would propose to the members of his committee that they personally visit each of the state schools for mentally retarded.

Governor Cites Record

Prior to his caustic rebuttal to Senator Kraf, Governor Rockefeller made public a lengthy letter he had sent earlier in the day to the committee that worked two years preparing a master plan for the state's care of its mentally disabled. The committee's report had been handed to him over the weekend.

Citing the achievements of his administration, the Governor wrote:

"In seven years, we have increased funds for institutional care of the mentally retarded and the mentally ill by 56 per cent, from \$177 million to \$276 million a year."

In the field of mental retardation, he listed the following:

¶ A 16 per cent increase in the number of retardates being treated in state institutions. The current total is 27,513.

¶ A 73 per cent increase in staffs in these institutions; current total 11,989.

¶ One employe for every 2.3 patients today; one for every 3.5 when his administration took over.

¶ Establishment of the first research center to study causes and treatment of mental retardation.