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STATE UNABLE TO PINPOINT GOVERNOR'S REPAIR COSTS

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New York State today was unable to account for only \$23,000 plus labor costs of the \$100,000 said to have been spent on remodeling once-abandoned Gouverneur Hospital.

At the same time, the state was unable to provide records showing that the obsolete Lower East Side institution housing 208 mentally retarded children has had a thorough top-to-bottom inspection for structural defects in the past four years.

A spokesman for the State Department of Mental Hygiene said that \$6000 of the renovation funds was spent to repair two elevators and another \$17,000 was used for paint, plaster and building materials.

The remainder went for labor costs, the spokesman said. This would be about \$80,000, according to the \$100,000 overall rehabilitation figure supplied by Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Gouverneur's parent institution, the Willowbrook School on Staten Island. Hammond originally said

"hundreds of thousands of dollars" had been spent to refurbish the 67-year-old building. "I was confused about the number of zeroes," he said, after correcting the estimate.

The State Public Works Department said it inspected these alterations in 1963 when they were completed. It described the job as "more or less minor work."

A Public Works spokesman said another \$30,000 contract to rehabilitate the elevator controls will be undertaken and should be completed within a year. He could not say

why the additional work had to be carried out so soon after the initial renovation.

As for inspections of the entire building, the Mental Hygiene Department spokesman said engineers had checked the antiquated hospital in 1961, before it was leased from the city. The spokesman could not say whether any inspections had been made since then.

Although the spokesman insisted the dingy building "has been inspected by any number of professionals," she was unable to furnish any dates when

the hospital was checked since its acquisition. She also was unable to describe the extent of the inspections.

The state's uncertainty over specific inspection details was the latest development in the furor over the hospital triggered last week when retarded children were found sprawled on floor mats.

The bleak hospital meant only as a "temporary crisis provision," according to Gov. Rockefeller, who said the building would be closed as soon as possible.

But Hammond said it would be 10 years before the children could be moved out.

Questioned as to the city's role in the inspections, Buildings Commissioner Judah Gribetz pointed out that under the state mental hygiene law, the city does not have authority to check the building.

While the building was operated by the city, Gribetz said, it was last inspected in 1959, when it underwent alterations.

A spokesman for the city Hospitals Department said the

building was regularly inspected by various municipal agencies when it was operated by the city. The spokesman said, however, that the Hospitals Department kept no records of the inspections.

On another front, the State Assn. for Retarded Children urged that jurisdiction over mentally retarded patients be taken from the Mental Hygiene Department. Mrs. Ruth Gross, the organization's president, said the department "has demonstrated its bankruptcy with regard to the mentally retarded."

Hospital Bars Press At Protest by Union

The press today was barred, by the director of Willowbrook State School on Staten Island from attending an employees' union meeting called to complain about conditions at the hospital.

In barring reporters from about 400 employees, is one of the employees lounge in Building 60. Dr. Jack Hammond accused Council 50 of the State and Municipal Employees, of "taking advantage of a sensational time to hold a meeting here."

He said he was ordered to bar the press by the public information office of the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

He said the department felt employees, and the Teamsters Union, representing 50 Officials in the public information office in Albany were unavailable for confirmation of Dr. Hammond's statements.

Employees at the council meeting complained that attendants at the school for the mentally retarded are being made scapegoats for the hospital's general deficiencies. Officials said the meeting was scheduled Aug. 26.