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UNION COMPLAINS OF WILLOWBROOK

Charges School Mistreats
Nonprofessional Workers

By JOHN SIBLEY

Nonprofessional workers at the Willowbrook State School for Mental Defectives on Staten Island complained yesterday that attendants as well as patients were being mistreated.

The attendants, kitchen and laundry help and maintenance workers voiced their complaints at a closed-door session in the employes' lounge over the garage in Building 60.

The meeting was restricted, not by the workers' union, which called the session, but by Willowbrook's director, Dr. Jack Hammond, who posted police at the building entrance to bar newsmen. However, a reporter for this newspaper who entered with a group of union officials was not asked to identify himself.

From 6 A.M. until late in the day, workers entered the lounge in small groups as they went off duty. They registered their complaints with officials of the union, New York State Employees Council 50.

Some of Their Grievances

Among their grievances were these:

¶Doctors treat them with contempt.

¶Doctors refuse to attend to sick patients when called by nonprofessional attendants.

¶Maintenance employes are required to work at doctors' residences on the institution's grounds.

¶When summer jobs are filled, friends and relatives of the doctors get the best ones.

¶The "palatial" doctors' residences cause resentment among employes who "take home less than \$70 a week."

Aroused From Sleep

Among the first workers to be heard was a woman on the midnight shift in Building 11. She reported that when no attendants were available for work on that shift in Ward D—which, she said, happened more often than not—the youngsters