

Point of View Long Island Press
9/16/65

Words of Praise

For Willowbrook

We are the parents of a retarded child who is being cared for by the State in Willowbrook State School. We read about the conditions described by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the papers that exist in these schools. We know that they are understaffed and overcrowded. Despite this we feel that the people who are involved in the care of these children do a fine job.

Having had to care for my son I understand how difficult it is to care for these kinds of patients. I am amazed that they do as well as they do. They are working under adverse conditions and should receive praise for their efforts. There are more pleasant ways to earn a living and there are some things money can't buy, such as kindness and concern for others.

We are grateful for a school such as Willowbrook where our child lives a protected life and has some friends. I dread to think the state our family would be in if we had to keep him home. Thanks to the state we are able to reconstruct our lives along a normal pattern and provide a suitable home for our other children.

We are an average Long Island family with a mortgaged home and an anemic bank account. We are thankful that the state has helped us to remain self-sufficient, self-supporting and taxpayers. We are not of a minority group, welfare case or disadvantaged. I think the people of the state should realize that families like us are also being helped with their tax money.

To our state we extend a profound gratitude for helping us in our adversity.

L. I. FAMILY
New Hyde Park

New York World-Telegram

Thursday, September 16, 1965

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Where the Fault Lies

Exposes of institutional decay, insufficiency and malpractice are perhaps good newspaper copy and political fodder but of little significance. There have been similar exposes in the past and undoubtedly will be others in the future . . .

However, nothing significant will be accomplished unless we, the citizens, are willing to respond adequately to the problem by changing our outlook on public responsibility from that which countenances the provision of the most minimal conditions necessary for survival or recovery to one that will insist that provision be made for the best facilities and services possible.

Periodic head-wagging at misery we have tacitly encouraged is a poor substitute for public responsibility.

THOMAS-ROBERT AMES,
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Vocational Training of Mentally
Retarded Young Adults
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