

# Rocky calls Bobby's blast a 'gimmick'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Gov. Rockefeller accused U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last night of "trying to trade off human suffering" in the recent furor over conditions at state facilities for the mentally retarded.

That charge was the sharpest hurled by the Republican Governor since the Democratic Senator touched off the controversy three weeks ago.

Kennedy toured several state schools for the mentally retarded, then declared that, because of overcrowding and other problems, some patients at those institutions were worse off "than animals in a zoo."

Rockefeller defended the state's mental health program in a television interview.

The governor noted that the Kennedy criticism was made public one week before the state mental hygiene department unveiled its master plan for care of the state's mentally ill in the next 10 years.

"That study," said Rockefeller, "had been completed a month and a half before and printed, and was well known."

"So," he added, "it looks a little bit as though it was a political gimmick—trying to trade off human suffering when no state had done what New York State had done or is doing with the plans in the works."

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1965

# Rocky Raps RFK Report On Schools

ALBANY (AP) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was under fire today from Gov. Rockefeller for "trying to trade off human suffering" in a "political gimmick" for his protests over conditions at state facilities for the mentally retarded.

The Republican governor hurled the charge yesterday in the latest gun sounded since the Democratic senator touched off a furor three weeks ago over care for the mentally ill.

Kennedy had toured state schools for the mentally retarded at Rome and at Willowbrook, on Staten Island, then declared that some patients were worse off "than animals in a zoo."

IN AN interview broadcast by an Albany television station (WTEN), the Republican governor defended the state's mental health program.

Rockefeller said the Kennedy criticism came one week before a 10-year master plan for mental health was unveiled.

"That study," the governor said, "had been completed a month and a half before and printed, and was well known."

He added:

"So, it looks a little bit as though it was a political gimmick — trying to trade off human suffering — when no state had done what New York has done, or is doing with the plans in the works."