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GOP Blamed By Titone for Willowbrook

Staten Island's three Republicans in the State Legislature are responsible for the conditions at Willowbrook State School pointed up by U. S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it was charged today by Vito J. Titone, Democratic candidate for state senator.

Titone, in a public statement, asserted that these legislators charged that Kennedy's report was politically motivated, and that nothing was amiss at the institution. He said that his opponent, Sen. John J. Marchi, should have been "more cognizant" of conditions at Willowbrook.

"It took a Brooklyn legislator—and a Republican at that—to call to Marchi's attention, a full year ago, the horrid conditions at Willowbrook," he asserted.

DR. JACK HAMMOND, director of the school, and his staff,

are doing a competent job with the equipment and funds available, but they have been handicapped by the state's indifference to their plight.

"Local, state and federal assistance is needed to overcome the handicaps of an undermanned staff, which must be more than doubled. A tour of the institution by our Republican legislators would assure them of such needs, but nothing can be done about the situation if they continue to ignore it.

"If elected, I will make sure that the intolerable conditions at Willowbrook do not continue, conditions which have been ignored by my opponent for many years."

Opponent In Error, Says Amann

A recent public statement by his Democratic - Conservative opponent that federal funds could be obtained for improvements at Willowbrook State School "proves he has very little knowledge of the situation," Assemblyman Edward J. Amann Jr. said today.

Amann, Republican candidate for reelection, noted, in a public statement, that his opponent, Robert J. Amoury, stated publicly that such funds were available under the Mental Health Retardation and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act and that he would seek such funds if elected.

According to Amann the federal program is limited to capital construction, primarily for research institutes, and is basically an out - patient oriented program.

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AMANN SAID that as a member of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee he was instrumental in bringing a mental retardation research program to Willowbrook, and that Amoury could view the new building, now under construction, if he would visit the institution.

He said the federal program is new and that so far very little funds are available and that it is highly unlikely that the state or federal governments would agree to diverting these limited funds for the purposes Amoury suggested.

"The problem at Willowbrook is overcrowding and insufficient personnel," he said. "The staff has done a tremendous job but the problem requires an increase in the institution's budget and a reduction in admissions."