

conditions did not happen overnight, nor in the last year, but have been allowed to exist and intensify and multiply over the years. Upon assuming the directorship, Dr. Hammond took courageous steps to rectify the deplorable conditions he found there. Despite his efforts, and those of the dedicated personnel under him, the prevailing public attitude toward mental retardation, of misunderstanding, indifference and apathy has resulted in a similar attitude on the part of the appropriate state officials and legislators charged with the financing and administration of these institutions.

**W**E, THE parents of these children, once more demand:

1. Adequate staffing in all areas
2. Realistic salary scales, since present salaries are too low to attract enough qualified personnel.
3. Relief of overcrowding of buildings and wards by exploration of existing idle facilities and immediate construction of new buildings.
4. Sufficient educational, recreational and rehabilitative facilities and programs.
5. The establishment of a separate department concerned only with the needs of the retarded, and divorced from the Department of Mental Hygiene.
6. Release of presently available funds to immediately implement the foregoing.

**W**E PARENTS have raised and spent a half million dollars during the past 16 years in an attempt to make the lives of all retarded children at Willowbrook a little fuller and more meaningful. We cannot, however, despite such expenditures, secure for these, our most defenseless citizens, the basic decencies which are the right of every human being.

**O**NCE MORE, we offer the Governor all our aid and cooperation in obtaining a better life for the children in Willowbrook State School and other state schools for the retarded.

**O**UR THANKS to Senator Robert F. Kennedy for joining us in our efforts to gain for all institutionalized retarded their right to live in dignity and safety.

**THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY  
FOR RETARDED CHILDREN—  
WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER of the  
NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, Inc.  
450 7th Avenue, New York City**

New York

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