

State to Aid Willowbrook, But Ignores Gouverneur

Gov. Rockefeller has ordered the State Mental Hygiene Department to relieve crowding at Willowbrook State School for Mental Defectives by Dec. 1—but has offered no relief for retarded children in decrepit Gouverneur Hospital.

Rockefeller issued the order in announcing a \$430,000 allocation to provide funds for the improvement of conditions at Willowbrook.

But according to Dr. Jack Hammond, Willowbrook's director, Gouverneur Hospital, a branch of Willowbrook housing 208 retarded youngsters, is not included in the improvement plans.

No Expansion Planned

"We're not going to expand over there, but we will not overcrowd it," Hammond said. "Gouverneur will remain as it is until such time as it is no longer needed."

Last month Rockefeller said that the once-abandoned hospital was to be used for mentally retarded children only as a "temporary crisis provision."

Despite that assurance, however, Hammond said it would be 10 years before the children could be moved out.

State Sen. Harry Kraf (D., Bx.), who demanded that the facilities be improved at Willowbrook, said today that he

was not planning to do anything about Gouverneur.

"From what I understand," he said, "we don't need it at Gouverneur. The staffing is very ample and it's one of the good schools."

Rockefeller, outlining the program to expand the facilities at Willowbrook, said that \$400,000 had been allocated to

cover scholarships for nurse-trainees. It is expected to triple the number of persons trained to work in that area.

Willowbrook will receive 36 more occupational therapists, 23 additional recreational therapists, 13 new teachers and 12 more physical therapists. The State Department of Mental Hygiene has two months to

submit its recommendations for use of other facilities in the New York area that can be adapted to care for the retarded.

New Schools Progressing

Plans for four new state schools to serve the city area are progressing, Rockefeller said, and the opening of the new Suffolk State School will help ease the overcrowding at Willowbrook.

He noted that capital and personnel needs at Willowbrook "will receive every consideration" in the 1966-67 budget now being prepared.

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Mental Unit Gets Help

An extensive program to strengthen facilities at the controversial Willowbrook State School for the Mentally Retarded, Staten Island, has been announced by Gov. Rockefeller.

Last month Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D.-N.Y.) charged that patients at Willowbrook were "living like animals in a zoo."

Yesterday Mr. Rockefeller said he was "pleased to announce" four developments to ease conditions at the school.

INCREASE STAFF

On Oct. 4 a training program to add 60 practical nurses to the staff will begin. Thirty-six new occupational therapists will be added; 23 recreational therapists; 13 new teachers and - physical therapists.

Cost of the new staff members is expected to total about \$430,000.

The Governor's statement added that the State Mental Department had been requested to submit, by Dec. 1, its recommendations for obtaining facilities in the Metropolitan Area that could be adapted for care of the retarded now contributing to the overcrowding at Willowbrook.