Willowbrook Report Delayed

A report filed by a grand jury following an investigation into conditions at Willowbrook State School is not expected to be made public until March at the earliest, if at all, it was learned yesterday.

On receiving the six-page report last Dec. 22, Supreme Court Justict James C. Crane withheld his decision on whether to accept it until he had read it and the minutes of the grand jury.

Under the law, the judge may accept or reject the report. He also may make it public or suppress it.

To reach a decision, the judge is required by law to read the grand jury minutes to determine whether the law abuses the statute governing such reports.

The judge also is empowered to suppress the report if there are any charges of criminality, whether directly or indirectly.

AS YET Crane has not received the grand jury minutes, which fill hundreds of pages.

This is due to the fact that only one stenographer is employed by the district attorney's office to record and transcribe testimony.

The stenographer is involved at present with three grand juries, in addition to handling other matters.

Complicating the situation is that another stenographer was called for part of the testimony when the regular stenographer became ill.

District Attorney John M. Braisted Jr. said the minutes are being transcribed with all possible haste and that he expects they will be ready for Crane sometime in March.

The grand jury investigated conditions at the state school for six months prior to handing up the report. Specifically, the investigation focused on the deaths of three residents of the school last year.