

# State Transferring Mental Patients

ALBANY (AP)—A transfer is under way of more than 600 persons from state hospitals for the criminally insane to non-prison state mental institutions.

That action was announced yesterday by Dr. Alan D. Miller, mental hygiene commissioner, who said the majority of patients would be moved from Dannemora and Matteawan hospitals.

Miller explained that the transfers were being undertaken to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court decision that bars the state from holding a mentally ill prisoner in a correctional institution after his original sentence expires.

That decision came in the case of a man from Rochester, who

was confined at Dannemora for more than four years beyond his original sentence.

Previously, the state had permitted the continued confinement of such persons, without a hearing or jury trial.

Miller said the majority of the patients were from the New York City area and would be moved to hospitals on Long Island. In addition, he said, some patients from the Western Reformatory for Women at Albion and the Eastern Correctional Institution at Napanoch also would be transferred to mental hospitals.

Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School, said today that none of the transfers will be sent to the Island school.