

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1966

WHY THE HUSH-HUSH?

More than a year has passed since a grand jury began a massive investigation of the brutality and overcrowding that turned the Willowbrook State Hospital for the Mentally Retarded on Staten Island into a snakepit for thousands of helpless children. So far officialdom has bottled up the report. The grand jury probe was sparked by a series of articles in THE NEWS that detailed the deaths of three retardates and the inhuman punishment inflicted on them.

Justice Stalled

The grand jury concluded its work last December, sent its report to Supreme Court Justice James C. Crane, where it sits. His Honor stalled the Benevolent Society, made up of parents of the retardates, for months, claiming that he was waiting for the minutes of the grand jury. He has now had those minutes for six or seven weeks, according to District Attorney John M. Braisted Jr.

Why? Is there something going on at Willowbrook that Justice Crane doesn't want made public? Surely, the people have a right to know what's going on.

And how about Bobby Kennedy, who made a much-publicized tour of Willowbrook and pronounced it "intolerable," turning on a little of the Kennedy pressure to spring the report?

DUNUA A

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

STATEN ISLAND SUNDAY ADVANCE, AUGUST 14, 1966

Willowbrook School Seeks Island Girls

The director of Willowbrook State School has issued a call to eligible Staten Islanders to attend that institution's school of practical nursing.

"We are disappointed that more people from the Island do not inquire about the school for licensed practical nurses," said Dr. Jack Hammond.

Out of 40 students from the New York City area attending the school, only two are from the Island, he added.

Students at the tuition-free school received a \$3,000 per year stipend, he said. Neither a high school diploma nor high school attendance is presently required. However, a state law requiring at least two years of high school soon will go into effect, he noted.