

Trying to avoid walkout, says Willowbrook union

A union source said today there are no plans at present for striking Willowbrook State School, despite a vote by workers there to authorize a strike.

Concerning plans for a picket line, the source said, "we are trying to avoid it."

He said the union, Council 50 of the AFL-CIO American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, is concentrating now on working out an agreement that would allow striking employes at Creedmoor, Bronx, and Manhattan State Hospitals to return to their jobs. A strike at Willowbrook was authorized Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Lillian Roberts, organizer for Council 50,

whose members have struck the three state hospitals in a union jurisdictional dispute, said a court injunction to stop the walkout will be disregarded.

Mrs. Roberts, organizer for Council 50 of the AFL-CIO American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, commenting on a restraining order obtained Thursday afternoon in State Supreme Court, said:

"It doesn't really have any effect. The strike will go on."

A walkout Monday by ward attendants at Creedmoor State Hospital in Queens was extended Thursday to the Bronx State and Manhattan State hospitals.

About 5,000 of the three hospitals' 11,000 patients have been sent home, including those pa-

tients who go home every weekend, or sent to emergency outpatient centers.

The Department of Mental Hygiene reported that 3,100 of the normal patient load of 6,300 remained at Creedmoor; 530 of 1,000 at the Bronx, and 2,250 of 3,500 at Manhattan.

The Department also gave figures on the number of attendants who were on duty Thursday:

Of 524 employes scheduled to work the day shift at Creedmoor, 231 on duty, including holdovers from previous shifts; of 700 scheduled at the Bronx, 426 reported; of 421 scheduled to work at Manhattan, 288 were working.

The opinions of those attendants who walked off their jobs

and those who stayed on were mirrored by two 10-year non-professional workers at Creedmoor, Elma Mayfield and Ethel Fuller.

Said Miss Mayfield: "When we walked out, the patients asked us to take them with us. We're the ones who take them home for holidays and weekends. We're the ones they talk to, because they are too nervous to talk to the doctors."

Said Miss Fuller: "My patients need me. I'm against any action that endangers the life and health of a patient."

Gov. Rockefeller last night commended the department for "doing a magnificent job of protecting the lives and health of patients" affected by the strike.