

## Union organizer accused once more

A union organizer for Council 50 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes ran into trouble with the law again yesterday at Willowbrook State School.

Leamon Hood, 31, of the Bronx, was given a summons returnable Tuesday charging him with criminal trespass, obstructing government procedure and harrasment. The charges were lodged on the complaint of Jarvis Tabor, a school official.

Hood was charged May 2, 1968 with criminal trespass but the charges were later dropped by the Willowbrook administration.

On Nov. 27 at Willowbrook Hood was again arrested on charges of criminal trespass and obstructing a state administrator. After a two-day trial in December the union organizer was acquitted of all charges.

# Suit says Willowbrook harassed union aide

A \$1-million suit was filed yesterday in Manhattan Supreme Court against Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School, and other officials by Council 50 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employes Union, AFL-CIO.

The suit lists Council 50 representative Leamon Hood and the union's Local 1184

president at Willowbrook, Joseph Callahan, as plaintiffs.

It alleges that Hammond "and other officials of the Department of Mental Hygiene maliciously and discriminatorally" had Hood arrested on three occasions since 1968 "solely in order to deprive the employees at Willowbrook of their constitutional and legal rights to join and be represented by a union of their own choosing, and to undermine and destroy the union."

Others named in the suit include the school's personnel administrator, Harold Margosian; State Mental Hygiene Commissioner Alan D. Miller; Deputy Commissioner Hugh Lefave, and John G. Lagatt, personnel director for the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

The suit maintains that Hood had been arrested three times for being at the school because Hammond and other officials had "calculated solely to harass the union and its representatives and to deprive the employees at Willowbrook State School of their legal and constitutional rights."

Hood was exonerated by Criminal Court Judge Royal S. Radin last Dec. 26 after a trial on charges of criminal trespassing and obstructing a state administrator. Last Thursday Hood was again arrested for criminal trespass, obstructing government procedure and harrasment at

Willowbrook. He had been arrested last May, but the complaint was withdrawn.

Hammond would not comment on the lawsuit and Mental Hygiene Department officials were said to be "unavailable for comment" by a departmental press aide.

"Dr. Hammond is just the first in a series of institutional directors we intend to prosecute," said Mrs. Lillian Roberts, organizing director for Council 50.

"This is only the beginning of our fight to see that state employes be given the right to vote for representatives of their choice."

Mrs. Roberts said that Miller and the other state officials were named in the suit because "they failed to relieve the situation, although they had repeatedly been informed of the problem."

Mrs. Roberts was released from jail on Christmas Eve after 13 days of a 30-day sentence imposed by Supreme Court Justice J. Irwin Shapiro. She had been convicted of contempt of court for refusing to call off the statewide strike of state mental hygiene workers.

"We regret having to take this extreme step," Mrs. Roberts said of the lawsuit, "but attempts to seek cooperation from the State Mental Hygiene Department have failed repeatedly. We have been left no other recourse."