

Union aide freed; drops civil suit

A representative of Council 50 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes Union, AFL-CIO, has dropped a civil suit against Willowbrook State School.

This decision was revealed yesterday in Criminal Court when the director of the school, Jack Hammond, and a lawyer from the state attorney general's office agreed to withdraw criminal charges against Leamon Hood, the union representative.

Charges of criminal trespassing, obstructing government procedure and harrasment were lodged Jan. 23, five days before Hood, Council 50 and local union president at Willowbrook, brought the civil suit against Willowbrook and five officials of the institution.

The civil charges contended that Hood was arrested three times at Willowbrook "maliciously and discriminatively in violation of "constitutional and legal rights" of union employes at the school.

The suit asked damages of \$1 million.

Court testimony yesterday indicated that Hood had signed an affidavit stating that the civil suit would be withdrawn. He also agreed to stay away from Willowbrook. Other union officials are not bound by the agreement.

January's arrest was Hood's third at Willowbrook. On May 2, 1968, he was arrested on a trespassing charge, which was later withdrawn by the school administration.

On Nov. 27 he was issued a summons charging him with trespassing and obstructing a state administrator. He was acquitted of both charges after a trial in December.