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Willowbrook union asks board revision

New York State Employees Council 50, AFL-CIO, one of the unions with a sizable membership of Willowbrook State School employes, has written to Gov. Rockefeller requesting a change in the general format of the state's board of visitors program.

Under present legislation, it is the governor's responsibility to appoint a seven-member board for each of the state's 33 mental institutions.

These boards, composed of five men and two women, serve terms of seven years.

The boards are required to oversee mental institutions as well as conduct inspections. But at present they need not be composed of a single member of the staff of the institution they are designated to oversee.

In the letter which the council addressed to the governor it was requested that at least one member of the board of visitors be a member of the staff of the institution.

Mrs. Lillian Roberts, organization director of Council 50, said that the need for this revision was essential because "only an employe who knew the day-to-day operations of an institution could have the expertise to point out deficiencies."

Mrs. Roberts went on to say that the boards of visitors, as

presently constituted, is usually composed of appointees who exercise no real restraint on the heads of the institutions they inspect.