

Willowbrook employees ask Rocky's help

By FRANK HAGELBERG

A busload of employees at Willowbrook State School will take their complaints against the institution's payroll procedures to Governor Rockefeller's Manhattan office tomorrow morning, according to a leader of the protesting workers.

Eger Smith, an attendant at the school, said a meeting has been scheduled with Alton G. Marshall, secretary to the governor, to discuss whether action can be taken to ensure that workers at the school get correct paychecks.

Last week, representatives of the state attorney general, the state controller, and the department of mental hygiene met with school officials and employees to review complaints against school officials alleging abuse of proper payroll procedures.

"Friday was payday for the last two-week pay period," Smith said yesterday, "and the system is still just as goofed up as ever."

A supervisory employe at the state facility was reportedly paid \$11 on Friday, and an attendant received a check covering four weeks' work—totalling \$1.62, Smith said.

"People still don't know how much they're supposed to be making," Smith said. "It's the same thing that's been going on for months."

The payroll officer at the school, Thomas Delaney, reportedly told workers Friday that the mistakes were made at the controller's office in Albany.

However, Francis C. Rivett, a spokesman for the Department of Audit and Control, said "our only function is to review the figures submitted to us by the

agencies, and then write the checks." Rivett said that the payroll figures which form the basis for the checks originate in the finance office of the agencies throughout the state.

But Rivett said Controller Arthur Levitt is not planning any further investigation of the payroll situation at Willowbrook.

"Our personnel were only sent to Willowbrook to hear what the complaints were," Rivett said. He admitted that while similar problems have developed at other state institutions, "we haven't had any matters brought to our attention the way the Willowbrook one was."

The payroll technicians sent to the school "were not called on to make any findings," Rivett said. They were only supposed to inform payroll personnel at Willowbrook of the correct procedures, he explained.

Smith said yesterday the group of workers also has planned to picket outside the governor's midtown office before and after the scheduled meeting.