

Willowbrook workers win steady job status

A recent controversy over the job status of about 40 provisional employees at Willowbrook State School was settled yesterday when Dr. Jack Hammond, director of the school, announced he received word from the Department of Mental Hygiene stating that all provisional employees at Willowbrook would be retained in their present jobs.

In conjunction with the ruling, Dr. Hammond said that all employees at Willowbrook who passed a recent civil service examination would be appointed to permanent positions. According to Dr. Hammond, this could be accomplished at current funding levels.

Provisional workers staged demonstrations in the school and held several meetings in Albany with mental hygiene officials. The controversy stemmed from the Career Ladder Program, which, according to an employe spokesman, would have replaced provisional workers.

Though they received satisfactory ratings, some provisional workers failed a recent civil service examination competing against better

educated, but not necessarily better qualified, personnel, they claimed.

At a Feb. 2 meeting with Mental Hygiene Department officials in Albany, employe spokesmen said that the officials promised to recommend that the Civil Service Commission suspend the Career Ladder Program. Workers insisted that such a program was unfair to people who had already demonstrated they could perform their jobs satisfactorily.