

Staten Island Register, October 14, 1971

# NEWSFRONT

*Editor's Note: This column will replace Richmond Review in bringing you local spot news items of the week.*



The Civil Service Employees Association has charged that the job freeze and other financial cutbacks at state institutions for the mentally ill and retarded have caused a deterioration in the quality of patient care. Theodore Wenzl, president of the union, told reporters that two elderly patients at Creedmore State Hospital in Queens choked to death while trying to feed themselves. On Staten Island, the Willowbrook State School has also been seriously affected by the freeze, which has been in effect since December of last year. While unable to hire virtually anyone (including replacements) the school has lost some 414 workers who were directly involved in patient care - 30 of these were nurses - plus an additional 177 support workers. Mr. Tabor, Personnel Director of the school, reports that while it's getting increasingly difficult, basic care is still being provided, but rehabilitation programs are suffering.