

It's your opinion

you want, to have all programs stopped, to have the children not cared for?

If we are doing wrong, then come and take us by the hand and show us how to do better. If not, at least print the truth.

JOHN A. LE FEVRE,

397 Victory Blvd.,
Tompkinsville

Lift job freeze at Willowbrook

I have read your series on Willowbrook and must commend you on your objectivity. Highlighted against the dedication of the director and his depleted staff is a picture of the appalling conditions which have become a way of life for the residents.

Faults surface easily but solutions call for a deeper commitment. The reaction of State Assemblyman Edward Amann does not address itself to the issues. Dr. Grunberg has always known the full extent of conditions at Willowbrook, in fact he shares the responsibility for their existence. It was the Department of Mental Hygiene's priorities coupled with the governor's job freeze that created the crisis.

Herein lies a solution of the problem. The job freeze MUST be lifted. It is unconscionable to expect people, no matter how dedicated, to get a job done under the conditions that exist at Willowbrook.

ANTHONY PINTO,

President

Benevolent Society
for Retarded Children

39 West 32nd St.,
Manhattan

Monday, December 6, 1971

Willowbrook resident's view

I am a resident at Willowbrook State School for the past couple of years. I have seen the poor conditions at Willowbrook for the workers and the residents at the school. The workers would do more for the residents if they had the time and the facilities to do it.

I have cerebral palsy and I have difficulty writing so I am telling another person what to write for me and someone will type it for me.

My problem is that I have freedom. The other residents need more activities like motivation, recreation and physical therapy.

My other problem is that I cannot speak out for myself and other people who can't talk at all and help themselves.

BERNARD CARABELLO

Tuesday, December 7, 1971

Employes kind at Willowbrook

I am a SERVE volunteer and doing work at Willowbrook State School. I am now working among children between the ages of 5 and 7. I have been mending clothes and sewing buttons on their dresses, shorts, etc.

I can truthfully say that I have come in contact with quite a few employes who work

among these dear little tots, and want to say that these workers are the most dedicated people. They just love these little folks.

I have noticed them at lunch time and at the table. It is very impressive to see these employes teaching the children to say grace before meals, thanking God for the food they eat, and thanking God for everything. They are taught to say grace before every meal, taught by these dedicated people.

I wonder how many of us, who are supposed to have all our facilities, ever stop to thank God for our blessings. What do those little tots have to thank God for? They will be institutionalized for the rest of their lives. They have not the advantages that we enjoy and take for granted.

Those tots love to be loved and they surely get plenty from those employes.

Just make a visit to Willowbrook State School and see for yourselves. From what I have seen, I cannot praise these employes enough. God certainly will be good to anyone who is kind and considerate to a helpless child.

ELOISE RONCHETTE,

260-7 Broadway,
West Brighton