

## Editorial

# Public or private?

"I don't have to tell you anything," Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School, told a reporter twice when asked the other day about the dismissal of two persons from the state institution's staff — a physician and a case worker.

Both employees are among those who have spoken to parents of patients and to the press about deteriorating conditions at the institution for the retarded because of severe attrition of its staff brought about by a state-ordered job freeze.

If what Dr. Hammond says is true, then the public hasn't a right to ask a public employe what's going on in a public institution. For the press represents the public.

So isn't it up to someone higher on the executive staircase in the state's Department of Mental Hygiene to explain all this to Dr. Hammond? Or to tell the public all about it himself?

The public does have other representatives, of course. Including grand juries.