

HEW to inspect Willowbrook

ADVANCE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Willowbrook State School on Staten Island and other state institutions will be inspected within the next few weeks by a team of mental health experts, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Elliott Richardson announced yesterday.

The group plans to study first

hand the financial plight of the institutions and examine the present conditions. The team will be led by Dr. Bertram S. Brown, director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Richardson said the full resources of HEW will be made available to help improve conditions.

Meanwhile, two justices of the

State Supreme Court's Appellate Division charged that the city's facilities for treating mentally deficient children are inadequate and discriminatory.

Justices Samuel Rabin, presiding justice of the state's Second Department, which includes Staten Island, and Harold A. Stevens announced their support for the creation of an Office of Children's Services to rate the performance of treatment agencies.

They charged that state budget cuts have forced institutions to deny admission or to prematurely discharge delinquent children needing psychiatric care.

A report that was the basis for that charge also indicated that private agencies, where Family Court often places troubled children, refuse to accept most black and Puerto Rican delinquents.

As a result, many seriously disturbed children wind up in state training schools where mental treatment is not available.

The report, prepared by the Family Court's Committee on Mental Health Services, offered this option:

"(The people) must decide whether they wish to spend additional money now to provide treatment for seriously disturbed children or spend larger sums to maintain them as adults in state prisons and state hospitals."

Jaycees support Willowbrook rally

The Richmond County Jaycees, meeting last night in the Eltingville home of its president, Anthony Curatolo, was addressed by Mrs. Sonia Braniff, a member of the Willowbrook Rally Committee.

The group adopted a proposal to work with and support the committee for its Feb. 5 rally at Willowbrook State School. In addition, a committee was set up to study and investigate health problems on the Island.

Plans were made for the annual fund-raising concert, to feature drummer Gene Krupa, March 20 in the Columbian Lyceum, West Brighton.

Plans were completed for the annual Young Citizens Awards dinner, honoring civic minded students in Island high schools, to be held Feb. 10 in the Pavilion on the Terrace, New Brighton. The next meeting will be Jan. 26.