

## Halperin asks probe by Senate

State Sen. Donald M. Halperin, Brooklyn, Democrat, held a press conference yesterday at Willowbrook State School and announced that he has called for a complete investigation of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene by a Senate committee.

Halperin, who called Gov. Rockefeller's emergency allocation of \$5 million for the Department of Mental Hygiene "merely window dressing," said the investigation might lead to a restructuring of the department "so that it can properly devote itself to the problems of the mentally retarded."

"Even with the addition of 300 staff members, Willowbrook will be far below the professionally recommended ratio of one staff member per four patients," Halperin said.

"While this may not be the fault of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, it indicates that we must examine the priorities used by that department in determining how mentally retarded are treated in New York. We have to take a hard look at what we want to accomplish in caring for these patients."

### JOINED BY EMPLOYEES

Halperin was joined at the press conference by several employes of Willowbrook, including the Rev. Arnold E. Ostlund, a Protestant chaplain.

Two attendants, Mrs. Dorothy Linette, with 17 years of experience at Willowbrook, and Mrs. Ruth Hamilton, with 12 years, expressed their concern that "the workers are not getting the credit for what they do with the children."

"My daughter," Mrs. Hamilton said, "comes home and tells me that the children in her school ask her if her mother works at that horrible place, Willowbrook."

Mr. Ostlund took exception to recent newspaper and television coverage of the critical conditions at Willowbrook, saying that the newsmen "commentators" presented the institution unfairly.

"Not all the buildings are like Building 6," he said. "We have many wonderful programs here where patients receive the education they can benefit from."

"It is unfair to say that the attendants don't care for the patients, when in some instances they spend their own money to decorate wards and provide for the children," he remarked.