

Javits heads Willowbrook probe team

ALBANY — (UPI) Gov. Rockefeller yesterday praised fellow Republican Sen. Jacob K. Javits for setting up a special team to investigate conditions of overcrowding and under-staffing at the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island.

Javits announced earlier in the day he would visit the school for the retarded Feb. 28 and 29, along with the director of the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Bertram S. Brown.

Since then, Rockefeller has released some funds withheld in the last year to ease staff shortages at half a dozen mental institutions caused by last year's budget cuts.

"The action by Sen. Javits will help implement my request to him last month to assure that the federal government do everything possible to assist New York State in solving this and other problems brought about by our continuing fiscal crisis," Rockefeller said.

In a Washington statement, Javits said he was "profoundly shocked and concerned as were the governor and other officials by the disgraceful conditions at the Willowbrook State School."

As part of the federal action team, Javits said he invited Sen. James Buckley, all New York congressmen, Sen. Edward Kennedy and other members of the Senate health subcommittee.