



Safety officers at Willowbrook State School and officers from other state institutions picket for higher pay and better working conditions outside the school's entrance on Victory Blvd. S.I. Advance Photos by Frank J. Johns

Willowbrook guards seek bigger staff

Safety officers at Willowbrook State School, joined by about 50 fellow officers from other state facilities, staged a peaceful demonstration yesterday outside the school's entrance on Victory Blvd. for higher pay, more personnel and better equipment.

The Willowbrook security men say they are not adequately staffed to protect the residents and employes at the institution from outside criminal elements

or to maintain order as during the recent demonstrations by parents and private citizens.

There are 10 officers and one supervisor who must cover three shifts a day.

A spokesman for the officers cited an increase in the incidence of burglary, robbery, vandalism and other crimes on the Willowbrook grounds, by outside persons seeking "easy pickings" on the 380 acres of Willowbrook.

The officers want an increase in pay from \$6,518 to \$8,659 a year, additional personnel (both men and women), better patrol equipment and broader powers to make arrests and prevent crime.

They are members of Local 1790 of Council 82 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes.