

## State prodded on retarded care

WASHINGTON — (UPI)—The disclosure of conditions at Willowbrook State School on Staten Island resulted yesterday in a House Committee adopting amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1972 that would prompt New York State to treat the handicapped in smaller, less crowded institutions.

Willowbrook was severely criticized for being overcrowded and providing substandard care for its mentally retarded persons.

Under the amendments submitted by Rep. Herman Badillo, D-N.Y., states would have to show that they considered "all alternative means for providing services" to the handicapped when they submit grants for federal aid. Such services would include half-way houses and patient-release programs.

The House Education and Labor Committee adopted the

amendments, which also provide for the creation of an evaluating council composed of handicapped individuals to study work-training programs for disabled persons.

### 'JAIL-LIKE INSTITUTIONS'

Badillo said he believed passage of his amendments "will assure that state officials in charge of providing services for the handicapped may no longer rely solely on giant jail-like institutions" in the treatment of such patients.

In New York, another congressman also reacted to the Willowbrook disclosures and suggested that an agency independent from the Department of Mental Hygiene be given the responsibility of continually reviewing patient records "in the hope of getting patients out of institutions."

Rep. Edward I. Koch, D-N.Y., noted that two persons at Willowbrook showed no signs of mental retardation. He called upon the courts to intervene on the behalf of such patients.

Koch also called for a investigatory commission to "review the whole approach of treatment for retardates."

## Willowbrook resident has his say

Two residents from Willowbrook State School were among a delegation from the Association for Children with Retarded Mental Development that interrupted the joint hearings by the Board of Estimate and the City Council's Finance Committee to ask that money be appropriated by the city for the care and education of the retarded.

Anton Zettler, 20, a resident at Willowbrook, told legislators: "We (the retarded) want the same as you want for your children. We want to learn how to do things and we don't want to go on welfare."

Zettler, and Ernest Boutell, also 20, were brought to the hearing from Willowbrook by Mrs. Ida Rapapport, executive director of the association, which takes patients out of institutions on a daily basis to work with them in small groups.

Mrs. Rapapport, in a speech she presented at the hearing, reminded legislators that the \$1.1 million which the association was asking for means "only \$4 for each retarded person in New York City.

Gentlemen," Mrs. Rapapport continued, "that's what I call chutzpah."