



The New York Times/Jack Manning

ON TOUR OF STATE MENTAL INSTITUTION: Federal officials visiting one of the wards in the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island

## Javits, in a Willowbrook Tour, Vows to Introduce Legislation

In the wake of the widely publicized plight of retarded children, Senator Jacob K. Javits joined Federal officials yesterday in a personal inspection of the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island.

Immediately afterward, Senator Javits said he would introduce in Congress a "bill of rights for the mentally retarded."

Yesterday's tour of Willowbrook followed a formal hearing at which the chief of the Federal inquiry, Dr. Bertram S. Brown, director of the National

Institute of Mental Health, stated:

"I take on this mission with both conviction and commitment that there is a minimal standard of decency that will be met in the care of every individual entrusted to our care.

"I predict that such a standard will eventually be determined to be a Constitutional right."

Asked whether his own task force would recommend such legislation, Dr. Brown replied: "It's possible."

He added that it would probably come about in any case—through court decisions, executive action or legislation.

Yesterday's inspection tour followed a three-hour hearing in the Federal Building west of Foley Square.

The dozen witnesses generally agreed that the state's present treatment of the mentally retarded was based on the wrong premise.

Rather than treating patients in giant institutions like Willowbrook, Dr. Brown said

retarded youngsters should be cared for in small community-based units.

The Brown panel is scheduled to turn its attention to this type of care today. It will visit three community facilities for the mentally retarded, and then tour a smaller version of Willowbrook, the Queens States School.

Among the recommended changes in New York's treatment of the retarded are the following proposals by the State Association for Retarded Children:

¶A requirement that the "psychiatrically oriented" Department of Mental Hygiene be required to incorporate other modes of treatment.

¶Creation of a "child advocacy system" in cooperation with the Columbia Law School.

¶A gradual phasing-out of large institutions like Willowbrook, replacing them with "homes" accommodating 10 to 40 patients.

¶Greater involvement of patients in the community, including public schools and workshops.