

Willowbrook: Rest for the weary



Young volunteers supervise patients in a small playground.

By LAWRENCE DEMARIA. The great majority of patients at Willowbrook State School probably never knew the strike ended. But then, they probably never knew it ever began, either. Their faultless ignorance of the conflict raging about them, a conflict that ended at 7 p.m. yesterday, added a poignancy to a situation that had promised only continuing tragedy for all concerned.

The strike ended with a handshake and cups of coffee shared by Thomas Delaney, head of the Willowbrook Chapter of the striking Civil Service Employees

Union, and Dr. Jack Hammond, director of the beleaguered institution. Delaney rushed from his spot on the picket line at the entrance to the school grounds to inform Dr. Hammond that the strike had been tentatively settled.

The haggard Delaney, who had gone since early Friday without much sleep, returned to his office in the school's administration building, only a few feet from where volunteer workers were still being processed to help out at Willowbrook.

Delaney said he would stay at his post and try and get the in-

stitution back to normal. "We are attempting to notify as many employes as possible," he said when asked about the scheduled 11:15 p.m. shift.

Delaney would make no apologies about the strike as he commented:

"Everybody had to do his thing. Nobody gains from a strike. We're short enough of employes, without striking against patients."

Of the more than 2,000 volunteers that had showed up at Willowbrook during the two-day strike Delaney said, "Hopefully, they have received a valuable education as to the importance re-

quired by Willowbrook employes, namely in ward service and food service and laundry service."

"There are probably hard feelings concerning the volunteers," he continued, "to the extent that the strike was delayed 24 hours longer than necessary, but I would hope that a mutual respect could be forthcoming. I would hope that many of the volunteers personally notified Gov. Rockefeller's office and their state legislators as to the working conditions that the regular employe has to go to."

Delaney had little to say