

# Willowbrook jobs to be filled again

By JANE KURTIN

Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School, announced yesterday that the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene has authorized him to fill 598 vacancies created at the institution since the state-imposed job freeze went into effect.

The authorization, Dr. Hammond said, came by phone to go ahead and recruit as many employees as it would take to bring the staff up to what

it was before the imposition of the freeze in November 1970.

While there will be a lot of hiring going on at Willowbrook — about 50 persons every two weeks — there will not be any construction. No funds have been appropriated for the capital budget at Willowbrook or any of the state's other mental institutions.

"This makes me feel great," Dr. Hammond said. The addition of nearly 600 workers in all categories, coupled with the hiring of 300 persons authorized

in January, will bring Willowbrook back to its peak.

Dr. Hammond sees the elimination of capital budget items as an important "change in priorities."

"This," Dr. Hammond said, "reflects in a positive fashion the Department of Mental Hygiene's priorities. Much more money is going to be spent for providing personal services and not for building."

Dr. Hammond also suggested that the move away from construction might well be an indicator that Willowbrook will be "shrinking in the future."

"There is no point," Dr. Hammond said, "in spending a lot of money in an institution when parts of it may someday be phased out."

In addition to being good news for the patients and parents of patients at Willowbrook, the opening of positions will be a boon to registered nurses who have found difficulty in getting work on Staten Island.

"I read in the Sunday Advance," Dr. Hammond said, "that nurses were having to look off the Island for jobs. Well, now I can take as many of them as apply. Willowbrook has 100 openings for registered nurses and many more which can be filled by nurses."