

Our opinion

Willowbrook tide turns

The announcement that the job freeze is over at Willowbrook State School and 598 vacancies created since the freeze started a year and a half ago will be filled is good news, and vindication for all those who have declared that the state's treatment of its retarded charges has been grossly inadequate. In January, hiring of 300 others had been authorized as a stopgap measure.

But at the rate of approximately 50 employes every two weeks, the rehiring job will take more than five months, though.

The state has been feeling a financial pinch, but across-the-board restrictions on hiring have never been the answer. Such facilities as Willowbrook must be exempted. The slashing should have been done where the need is least. And the bureaucrats have learned now that if Willowbrook's charges can't speak for themselves, they have thousands of relatives and concerned citizens who'll demand adequate care for them.

The Advance is happy that its revelations of conditions at Willowbrook, starting last fall, have had this result. Others enlisted in the cause later on, and their concern helped this achievement.