

# Court focuses on patient's IQ

Although Adrienne Renelli had been a resident in Willowbrook State School during the eight years he was director there, Dr. Jack Hammond said yesterday he never saw her until last March, after a court action had been initiated on her behalf.

Dr. Hammond took the witness stand for the second day, as a hearing resumed in Supreme Court to determine whether the 22-year-old woman, a resident of the institution for a mentally retarded 12 years, had been mistreated and neglected.

Adrienne's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Renelli of the Bronx, represented by Congressman Mario Biaggi, are seeking to compel the state Mental Hygiene Department to provide her and other residents with adequate training and rehabilitation programs.

Mr. and Mrs. Renelli also contend that because of the institution's failure to provide their daughter with training programs she has regressed since entering Willowbrook in 1960.

It was this point that Biaggi's law partner, Barnard Ehrlich, hammered away in cross-examining Dr. Hammond, who was transferred from Willowbrook last August to Rome (N.Y.) State School, from which he went to Willowbrook in 1964.

## DROP IN IQ

At one point, in which Justice Vito J. Titone interceded, Ehrlich sought Dr. Hammond's opinion on whether he considered Adrienne's drop in IQ as regression.

Dr. Hammond said he believed that while she hasn't "progressed" she did not necessarily regress. He based his opinion on the age of Adrienne when she was tested and other factors.

Nevertheless, Dr. Hammond agreed "in the abstract" with a previous statement he made that the "regime of a total institution like Willowbrook" results in regression in patients like Adrienne.

Under questioning by Ehrlich and Assistant State Attorney General Judith Gordon, Dr. Hammond repeated what he's said before — that whatever care, treatment and training Adrienne and other patients received were connected with overcrowding and understaffing.

Dr. Hammond said new ward attendants received 120 hours orientation, while older employes had programs of lesser duration. At one time, he said, the school had a goal training of 550 hours. From this, he said, it could be concluded that he wasn't satisfied with existing training programs.

Ehrlich succeeded in extracting from Dr. Hammond testimony that while "some" written guidelines for programming were posted in Adrienne's wards, they were for the "basic needs" of all the patients. They included feeding and bathing, but to his knowledge there was no specific program for Adrienne.

Dr. Hammond insisted Adrienne received whatever care, treatment and training she was capable of receiving.

## SEVERELY RETARDED

He said that in November 1970, the school had a patient population of 5,200; 77 per cent were profoundly or severely retarded. They included Adrienne.

Dr. Hammond said that programs were initiated for the younger, profoundly retarded patients during his directorship, but they could not be provided for adolescent or older patients, because of funds and other limitations on the school.

He said that in some of the wards in which Adrienne was a patient there were occupational therapy programs, but he didn't know if Adrienne was enrolled in any of them.

The hearing was started last September on Staten Island, but when Titone was transferred to Brooklyn in October he carried the hearing with him. He was reassigned to Staten Island this month and is continuing the hearing here.

Dr. Hammond will return to the witness stand when the hearing resumes today.