

"I hope that we have made a breakthrough in this case,"

Katz said. "There is a fear that permeates the working people at Willowbrook, and this produces silence. I hope this case will show that responsible people at Willowbrook can come forward in safety and fulfill their obligations to the patients."

The society's investigation was conducted in cooperation with state Department of Mental Hygiene, the state attorney general's office and District Attorney John M. Braisted's office.

The strict security measures taken to protect potential witnesses in the assault case came in the wake of two incidents involving Willowbrook employes which are still under police investigation.

In one case last month, an employe's car parked on the grounds was firebombed, and in another incident several months ago, seven shots were fired into a supervisor's car parked outside his home.

Dr. Miodrag Ristig, director of the institution, said he felt the incidents did not involve reports of child abuse but were motivated by personal grudges.

Referring to the earlier incident, Ristig said: "You cannot tie what happens at a man's home with what happens at Willowbrook. But if the man believes there is a connection,

that is intimidation."

Dr. Ristig also said he had visited one of the boys alleged to have been beaten Sunday, and said it was "very difficult to tell whether the marks I saw were the result of a beating or an accidental injury."

Misses Garner and Slayton were booked at the St. George stationhouse after they were arrested at work and later arraigned before Criminal Court Judge Royal S. Radin. They were released for a hearing

Tuesday.

Miss Garner, who said she is 17, is employed as full-time ward attendant, although the minimum age requirement under child labor laws for the job is 18 years old, according to James Thurston, director of personnel at Willowbrook.

He said applicants for the position are not required to submit birth certificates or other proof of age, but a fingerprint check is performed on each application.

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