

Judge to visit Willowbrook on his own

Hearings being held in Brooklyn Federal Court concerning conditions at Willowbrook State School came to a close yesterday afternoon, with Judge Orrin G. Judd reserving decision until he makes a personal, unannounced visit to the institution sometime within the next few weeks.

The judge announced that he wanted to see himself what improvements have been made at the school and the quality of those improvements.

Both sides in the controversy have also been given 30 days to file their supporting papers.

Among those who testified at yesterday's hearing was the present director of the school, Dr. Miodrag Ristic. He was questioned with respect to current plans for improving the facility.

Dr. Ristic said that he is hoping to recruit additional nurses from Korea in order to add to the staff, but he was unable to give any specific date as to when the additional nurses will arrive.

He also said that the population of the school will be further reduced to allow a better distribution of staff to the residents.

NEEDS STAFF

Mrs. Georgia Hayden, a registered nurse at the institution, supported Dr. Ristic's contention that the school is still badly in need of additional staff when she testified that there is usually only one attendant for every 37 patients during the night.

Each attendant has a specific number of duties to perform and this makes it virtually impossible to supervise adequately the residents under her care, she said.

Also testifying was Dr. Norman Ruttner, a pediatrician at the school since September.

Dr. Ruttner revealed that he examined 116 residents occupying one building and discovered that 85 of them had chronic problems. A large percentage of these required care for orthopedic problems from a specialist. Dr. Ruttner's remarks indicated that the residents may certainly have benefitted from a specialist's care at a much earlier date.