

Parents' parley grows out of clash with Ristig

By CHRISTOPHER FINAN

The heated clash between Dr. Miodrag Ristig, director of Willowbrook State School, and a group called Parents of Building 6 will be discussed at the group's next meeting Sunday.

The group of men and women whose children are patients in that building will meet in the basement.

Mrs. Eleanor Janover of Brooklyn, co-chairman, said her group had confronted Dr. Ristig on Sunday with several complaints such as a broken window, lack of bedsheets and an understaffed kitchen.

Mrs. Janover said he refused to talk, because it was his day off.

"This man has no fight to a day off, not with the job he has taken," Mrs. Janover said. "We went over to his house like ladies and gentlemen, staff and parents, but he refused to see us on a Sunday."

Dr. Ristig later left his house and went to building six, Mrs. Janover said. When the parents saw where he was going, they followed. They confronted him again, this time with a policeman. His presence so angered Dr. Ristig that, according to Mrs. Janover, he said: "That's it, Mrs. Janover, I've had it with you. If you called the police, that's it."

then left the building, she said.

When Dr. Ristig was reached by the Advance, he explained that the parents called on him at 6 p.m. He added that he had spoken with the group for five minutes before ending the conversation.

"I do not mind being approached," he said, but added, "I do object to people coming to me without meeting with the assistant director on duty."

Dr. Ristig said the group's complaints should have been taken to the assistant director. He said that they hadn't even tried to talk to the man on duty before they approached him.

"Of course I'm responsible for this institution seven days a week, 24 hours a day," he said and added, "I don't allocate all of Sunday to my family."

Dr. Ristig said he couldn't understand why the policeman had been called and that he finally decided that "one cannot explain these priorities in a heated atmosphere." This, he said, was why he left building six.

Dr. Ristig said that before he left he asked the group to get in touch with him early this week. As of 11 p.m. yesterday the members hadn't responded, he said. He concluded that he would meet with the parents if they were invited.