

## State school staff to vote for rights unit

Nominating ballots for the new human rights committee were distributed with employe's paychecks at Willowbrook State School yesterday. Due to be returned in five days, the ballots will nominate candidates for the committee from the entire staff of the school.

Demetrius Bumbrey, senior personnel administrator, said the old human rights advisory committee had been dissolved by the Department of Mental Hygiene for two reasons: The old committee handled complaints of discrimination from patients as well as from staff members, and the old board was not broken down according to minority groups.

The new election will guarantee the selection of at least seven of the 12 committee members from minority groups.

Of the 12 members, one representing the Civil Service Employees Association, will be appointed by that body. It is also expected that a member will be the president of the Willowbrook CSEA chapter.

The human rights committee handles all complaints from employes based on race, color, creed, national origin, age and sex. It then makes recommendations based on its findings to the institutional

director. Should the director decline to implement the recommendation, the committee can appeal directly to the commissioner in Albany.

Ballots listing the candidates will be returned to the employes with their next paycheck March 29. They are returnable within five days, and the winners should be announced during the first week of April.

Bumbrey said he has heard of no charges of reverse discrimination stemming from the minority guarantee for the committee. He estimated that 60 to 65 per cent of the Willowbrook staff are minority group members.

He also explained that patients will now direct any complaints based on discriminatory treatment to their social workers.