

# State drafting reply to U.S. court order

ADVANCE ALBANY BUREAU

ALBANY — Robert Hayes, deputy commissioner of the state Mental Hygiene Department, said yesterday that his office is waiting to receive a copy of Federal Judge Orrin Judd's decision before making any definite commitments for adding manpower at Willowbrook State School.

"Most of the recommendations the judge made are consistent with what we have been trying to do at Willowbrook," Hayes said. "But we need closer analysis of what the judge ruled before we can make any final decisions."

He estimated that by tomorrow the department would be able to state its response to the court decision.

Hayes emphasized that there has been an increase in staff at Willowbrook of 309 workers over the last year and that further increases in staff have already been planned by the state.

He also suggested that the money for the extra employees required by the court decision is available, but the problem

has been attracting personnel to Willowbrook.

Another Mental Hygiene Department official, Harold Wolf, assistant commissioner for communications, pointed out that Willowbrook "is too big and we're trying to reduce its size."

He said much of the problem stemmed from austerity measures instituted last year, but that "Willowbrook is the kind of problem that isn't created overnight and that you don't solve overnight."

## MOST ALREADY DONE

Wolfe said most of the measures Judge Judd ordered have either been done, are being accomplished or can be attained.

"We in the department have stated publicly that conditions are not what we want them to be at Willowbrook."

Assembly Minority Leader Stanley Steingut released a statement yesterday claiming that "the Legislature appropriated the funds to correct the conditions at Willowbrook, but these funds have not been

used by the governor despite our legislative mandate."

Tracing the problems at Willowbrook directly to Gov. Rockefeller, Steingut alleged, "Willowbrook is only the tip of the iceberg. The Rockefeller administrative arrogance and lust for power pervades every element of every institution and public service of New York State."

Steingut also referred to legislation submitted by him and State Sen. William Conklin of Brooklyn, the Republican deputy majority leader, calling for decentralization of the entire Mental Hygiene Department and establishing an ombudsman in the agency to "act as a representative and advocate of institutions."

In Manhattan, a representative of State Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz's office said copies of Judge Judd's 90-page ruling have been mailed to Albany to be "digested and analyzed."

"We're not rushing into anything," she said, although she indicated the state is considering an appeal of the decision.