

# Court OKs U.S. entry into Willowbrook case

By JOAN MOTYKA

Federal Court Judge Orrin G. Judd yesterday accepted the motion of the United States government to appear as friend on the court in the Willowbrook State School case currently under consideration in Brooklyn Federal Court.

Three lawyers from the Justice Department and one assistant U.S. attorney will work on the case, according to

lawyers representing Willowbrook residents.

J. Stanley Pottinger, assistant attorney general, appeared in Brooklyn Federal Court yesterday to plead the government's case. He claimed the case was important not only for the Willowbrook residents involved, but for institutionalized people throughout the country, informed sources reported.

The federal government had requested to assist the court in

evaluating the rehabilitative programs at Willowbrook and to provide experts in the field of care for the mentally retarded.

Since it provides funds to Willowbrook, it asked that it be allowed accountability over their use.

Judge Judd directed all parties involved in the suit to meet June 19 following the submission of a report by the state on its compliance with his

April 10 order to increase personnel and improve conditions.

Another meeting with Judge Judd was scheduled for June 22.

Feldt visited Willowbrook Wednesday to investigate the state's activity in complying with the order.

"The situation was worse than it's ever been," he claimed. "I was told by one supervisor that this is the worst it's been in four years."

He said he found in some wards with hyperactive residents that there were 45 or more residents with only two attendants, and in wards with spastic residents, over 65 residents with only one attendant.

He saw very few residents outdoors in Wednesday's bright sunshine, and found "broken toilets all over the place, many reported weeks ago."

## NOTHING DONE

"It was like the judge had ordered nothing," Feldt claimed.

He said that Judge Judd yesterday expressed "impatience and irritation" in court over the state's failure to comply.

An attorney for the state yesterday said, "We're still trying to comply. We're still hiring," but added that she "didn't have the information" on when the order would be fully met.

On April 10, Judge Judd had ordered that all broken toilets be repaired. The state's attorney claimed she has not yet verified the reports of broken toilets but as far as she knew, they were being repaired.

Attorneys representing the Willowbrook residents yesterday submitted affidavits comparing conditions they found on visits to the facility on May 16 and May 28. They claimed there were no improvements, and Feldt added that conditions he found Wednesday were even worse than those of the weekend of May 28.