



In the administration building, at Willowbrook State School one of the residents complains about the firing of Mrs. Rosemarie Siegel to deputy director, Harry Eliazarian. S.I. Advance Photos by Frank J. Johns

Firing at Willowbrook spurs workers' protest

By JOAN MOTYKA

Outraged and frustrated, employees of Willowbrook's Building 23 yesterday marched with their resident-wards to the state school's administration building to protest the recent firing of team leader, Mrs. Rosemarie Siegel, and the conduct of unit chief Dr. Eric Sheldon.

Shouting "Mrs. Siegel's the best thing that ever happened

to Building 23," and accusing Dr. Sheldon of a wide variety of charges, the employees confronted Harry Eliazarian, deputy director of the institution, since the director, Dr. Miodrag Ristich, was in Manhattan.

Mrs. Siegel, a New Brighton resident, team leader of what is considered one of Willowbrook's most difficult buildings, was told Tuesday by Sheldon that he was firing her

with the consent of Dr. Ristich.

She claims Sheldon said they "couldn't work together" and that she was "derelict on duty." Sheldon charged, during yesterday's disturbance that "she didn't discharge her duties competently and neglected many items she was asked to do."

For the attendants, Mrs. Siegel's dismissal appeared as the final outrage in a long series of grievances based in Building 23.

Called the "last outpost of non-civilization in this place" by Mrs. Siegel, the building houses 151 moderately to severely retarded adolescent and adult women. Traditionally, she claims, it has been used as a punishment building, both for residents and employees who did not "work out" in other buildings.

It is unique in that it has collected, most serious behavior problem cases in the institution, making it what one attendant