

FBI gets checklist for Willowbrook visit

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A court order which should "promptly open locked doors" at Willowbrook State School to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was issued yesterday outlining the manner in which the bureau will investigate conditions and attendant-patient ratios at the institution.

Federal Court Judge Orrin G. Judd specified no date for the bureau's monitoring but recommended that it be done

"on a sunny day, or at least on a day when rain does not appear likely," and that it be completed in one day.

The agents will be required to "enter the office of each resident building, except buildings 5, 19, 21, 32, 76 and 78, and obtain all information recorded on the daily ward census and on the daily assignment sheet. The daily assignment sheet will tell the agents the number of employes assigned to each shift for that day and the number that actually show up.

The order states that the monitoring should be done between 7 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., pointing out that the shift change for attendants occurs between 3 and 3:30 p.m. and that "no wards should be visited during that half-hour period."

As the agents enter and leave each building, they will observe and record the number of residents and attendants outdoors, describing exactly what the residents are doing and paying attention to any recreation activity.

Upon entering each ward, the agents will be required to:

● Count the number of residents present in the day

room.

● Count the number of staff present in the day room (note how many staff members are performing housekeeping or janitorial functions as opposed to supervising or attending to the needs of residents).

● Interview staff members of a Grade 7 or higher status to ascertain the number of such staff and the number of those present that are not of Grade 7 status or higher.

Whenever the agents interview a new staff member, the order is clearly against advising the individuals of "rights" pursuant to the Fifth Amendment.

The conditions of the toilets in each ward, including the wards that will not be inspected for recreational and staff-patient ratios, will be under particular scrutiny by the agents. Recording of the number of toilets and whether there are any missing, leaking or inoperative, will be part of the agents' task. Also, the number of toilets without seats or with broken seats will be noted and whether all lights in the bathroom area are

operative. The presence of feces or urine on the floor of the toilet area also will be looked for.

The court has ordered that the institution issue each FBI agent a pass card authorizing them to enter buildings and cooperate with them in fulfilling their duty.

Although the order requires the completion of the monitoring in one day and that it be done within 30 days of yesterday's date, it states that the investigation is subject to renewal upon request of the plaintiffs, the New York State Association for Retarded

Children, represented by Bruce J. Ennis.

The order does not suggest that the FBI notify in advance officials at the institution, but that they identify themselves and state that their visit is at the request of the court and that they are there solely as part of an effort to determine if there is compliance with certain provisions of the court's order of April 12, 1973.

The April order, which is a modification of a May 23 order, requires the institution to upgrade the ratio of attendants and patients to one-to-nine and to improve toilet and recreational facilities.