

Biaggi sees Willowbrook progress



Rep. Mario Biaggi, Conservative mayoral candidate, shows a copy of a court order requiring new training programs at Willowbrook State School to Adrienne Renelli, whom he represented in a 1972 lawsuit.

By DAVID O. STEWART

Rep. Mario Biaggi, the Conservative Party's mayoral candidate, mixed politics with law on a trip to Staten Island yesterday, campaigning in the morning at the ferry terminal and then visiting a 23-year-old resident of Willowbrook State School whose court case he has fought over the last year and a half.

After finishing his campaign swing through the morning commuter rush at the St. George terminal, Biaggi drove to Building 22 at Willowbrook, where Adrienne Renelli lives.

In a court case argued before State Supreme Court Justice Vito J. Titone in 1972, Biaggi won a court ruling that Willowbrook must protect the welfare of Miss Renelli, by preventing her from suffering from injuries and by providing proper medical attention.

The final judgment came down from Justice Titone last week, and yesterday Biaggi was at Willowbrook to check up on Miss Renelli.

"She looks much better," the candidate said when he was brought to the room where Miss Renelli was receiving hygienic training with several other residents. "I'm gratified to see her in the condition she's in, no bruises, no scars."

As a result of the court's

decision, school officials explained, Miss Renelli has been placed under the care of Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson, an attendant who has been trained as a "motivator."

Biaggi applauded the court decision calling for better treatment for his client, saying, "God bless Judge Titone."

The candidate found the general condition of the Building 22 to be "cleaner and better. There's no stench here now. I always dreaded coming here in the past."

Biaggi also examined Miss Renelli's progress records and declared himself satisfied.

Later, outside Building 22 and in front of the TV camera, Biaggi explained his interest in Willowbrook as a "crusade, not a sometime interest by a passing public official." But with the shouts and screams of a Willowbrook ward in the background, the interview, inevitably, turned to politics.

After expressing incomprehension over Rep. Herman Badillo's endorsement

of Democratic mayoral hopeful Abe Beame, Biaggi drove to LaGuardia Airport, where he had to catch a flight to Washington.

As he drove off, some of the residents on the second floor of Building 22 yelled good-by.