



Rep. Ogden Reid, left, discusses conditions at Willowbrook State School with the facility's director, Dr. Miodrag Rustig. Staten Island Advance Photo by Irving Silverstein

By MICHAEL AZZARA
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Following a briefing by members of BLAST yesterday at Wagner College, Congressman Ogden Reid said he would talk to federal and city authorities about the dangers of liquefied natural gas storage facilities on Staten Island's West Shore.

Reid later visited Willowbrook State School and pledged that, if elected governor, he would set a higher priority on funds for the Department of Mental Hygiene and Mental Retardation.

Reid said he was "impressed" by the presentation conducted by Gene Cosgriff, chairman of BLAST, who used slides to explain the LNG hazards and to illustrate the proximity of the tank installations to populated neighborhoods.

The Westchester congressman, a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, spent the entire day on the Island, speaking to a group of Wagner and Staten Island Community College students following the BLAST briefing, then having lunch with supporters at the Riviera Chateau, Oakwood. A meeting with campaign volunteers at Citizens for Reid headquarters, New Dorp.

FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

In the afternoon, Reid talked with Dr. Miodrag Rustig, Willowbrook State School director. Reid said he would try to increase the appropriation for care of the mentally retarded

children under five years of age residing at home or private facilities.

He also talked about increasing the funds set aside for those over five years of age, noting the budget for them had not been increased for three years.

Reid then visited borough police headquarters in New Dorp. He deplored the fact that only seven patrol cars were on duty at certain hours to cover the 57 square miles of the Island.

He vowed to increase the expenditure of the state criminal judicial section which now is only 3 per cent of the state's annual budget.

At the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Clifton, which wound up his afternoon's activities, Reid said that "for the moment" the Clifton hospital was "critical" to the state of medical care on Staten Island. He said that he was for its continuance.

The only question he had was whether the condition of the building and facilities were adequate enough for the "overall future."

He was scheduled to attend the St. Vincent's Medical Cen-

ter charity ball last night in the Columbian Lyceum, West Brighton.

Reid told the students that "a substantial portion" of the state's 473,000 full-time college students are in danger of being disenfranchised in the coming election because of loopholes in the election law.

Following passage of the 26th Amendment, he explained, the Legislature adopted a measure "that vitiated the amendment's effect by setting discriminatory standards for students desiring to vote."

He noted that the State Senate had approved an absentee ballot bill that will correct the situation but the Assembly has not yet acted on the measure.

"If the Legislature doesn't act," he said, "I would take the matter into the federal courts." He added that the state's failure to permit absentee ballots in primary elections also endangers the voting rights of many others, including the handicapped, armed forces personnel, persons whose work requires travel and many senior citizens.

Reid, a five-term congressman, is a former Republican who turned Democrat in 1972.