

SUNDAY NEWS, FEBRUARY 24, 1974

*An Editorial*

## WILLOWBROOK AGAIN

Willowbrook State School, a 78-building complex sprawling over 306 acres, presents difficult security problems, and there have been many major crimes there. In January 1973 the state police gave numerous specific recommendations—yet crime continued to climb during the year.

State Sen. Frank Padavan (R-Q), who reports the increase, charges some of the most critical recommendations have been ignored. He also discloses that about 225 of the 4,000 staff members have felony arrest records, and no mechanism exists to determine true rehabilitation.

The state Department of Mental Hygiene, pleading lack of funds, also makes the usual bureaucratic stalleroo—a "study" of security is under way at all state institutions. Why a study! The state police did that. What's needed is action to implement their recommendations.