

## WILLOWBROOK AIDES TARGET OF PROTEST

A group of parents of retarded at the Willowbrook State School held a protest there yesterday during which they alleged that a number of employees with criminal backgrounds had threatened and intimidated other members of the staff.

Executives of the state mental institution on Staten Island and of the union that represents most of the 3,000 employees—the Civil Service Employees Association — said there had been some incidents but they were not serious, so far as they knew.

Donald Fleming, deputy di-

rector for administration at Willowbrook, said that about 100 employees had criminal records but that it would be illegal for the institution to refuse to employ persons who qualified for jobs solely on the basis that they had been convicted of a crime.

Anthony Pinto, president of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, Willowbrook Chapter, said there was "an atmosphere of fear" among employees.

Pat Fraser, chairman of the union's grievance committee at Willowbrook, said he had heard a number of allegations of intimidation, but "for the most part they can't be substantiated."

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