

Tempers flare at Willowbrook

The mother of a resident of the Willowbrook Developmental Center charged yesterday that she was locked in a ward by an attendant and subsequently ordered off the grounds after bringing her son back to the institution Sunday night.

Willowbrook officials and aides, however, denied that

Mrs. Jenevieve Caman of Manhattan, an outspoken critic of the Willowbrook administration, had been harassed. According to Joyce Libra, an administrative assistant, Mrs. Caman was asked to leave because her presence threatened to "disrupt" business at the center.

According to Mrs. Caman — who, as an officer of the Benevolent Society, an organization of parents of retarded children, is authorized to make unannounced visits at Willowbrook buildings — entered Ward B of Building 8 around 8 p.m.

When she attempted to leave, she said, an aide locked the door to the ward and said, "I did not let you in. I will not let you out."

Mrs. Caman was released when the supervising nurse heard her banging on the door. After fruitlessly trying to contact high-echelon Willowbrook officials for two hours, she returned to the building with her husband, James. Both were ordered to leave by Willowbrook security guards.

Willowbrook officials and employes offered a different version of the incident. They said the door was locked as a "standard procedure" while an aide went to the far end of the ward to get a pair of pants for a resident who had blood on his trousers after another resident bit him on the nose.

Officials said it was important to get the resident into a pair of pants right away so that he could be fitted with a camisole, a restrictive jacket that would prevent him from pulling off the bandage that had been applied to his injury.

"I felt my kid was more important than to make a U-

turn to let her out," said Mrs. Jeannie Sims, the accused attendant.

Other aides complained that Mrs. Caman's bombardment with questions during her unannounced tours prevented them from performing their tasks.