

# Carey Sees Willowbrook Hope and Despair

*After an Inspection,  
States a Preference  
for Small Hospital*

By PETER KIHSS

Governor-elect Hugh L. Carey brushed away a fly from a 16-year-old youth whose hands were tied to the bed above his head—a mentally retarded hemophiliac who was being prevented from hitting himself. Then Mr. Carey had to flick the fly away again.

Why can't something be done about the flies, Mr. Carey asked in his visit yesterday to the Willowbrook Developmental Center on Staten Island. A hospital official said insecticides were banned as potentially harmful to children.

"How about swatting?" the Governor-elect asked. He was promised that that would be tried.

Mr. Carey made a two-hour inspection of Willowbrook, which now houses 3,000 retarded patients. He said his own thinking preferred smaller facilities, and he cited as an example that was "working well," Garfield Manor, at 305 Garfield Place, Brooklyn. Garfield Manor is sponsored by the Catholic Charities' office for the handicapped.

Brian Dionne, who with his wife manages Garfield Manor, said later that six men and four women were residents in the manor, a brownstone, opened in March, 1973. Seven were formerly patients at Willowbrook, some of them for most of their lives.

## Resident Earns \$8,000

They go out during the day in a progressing development—three to occupational day centers to learn personal care, three to sheltered workshops and four to gainful jobs, one of them in Civil Service at \$8,000 a year.

Mr. Carey said he wanted to see the conditions at Willowbrook for himself because of a continuing suit in Federal Court in Brooklyn against the state, on which he said he might after taking office sign a consent decree that Governor Wilson has so far held up. Mr. Carey noted that violation of such a decree could subject the Governor to contempt proceedings.

Mr. Carey heard some heartening reports. Bernard Carabello, 23 years old, a spastic, painfully explained that he had spent 18 years in Willowbrook and similar facilities and had eventually got into an education program in which "I went from first- to fifth-grade reading in a month."



The New York Times/Barlon Silverman  
As a Willowbrook employe aided a blind child, Governor-elect Hugh L. Carey, second from left, conferred with Dr. Rangasamy Natarajan, left; Max Schneier, chairman of the Federation of Parents Organizations, and Dr. Satish Varma, right.

He said he was now living on his own, and hoped to help disturbed children. "It proves what can be done," he said.

James Forde, acting Willowbrook director, wanted Mr. Carey to see the medical building's workshop. Among patients successfully assembling ballpoint pens was a girl whom Bruce J. Ennis, counsel for the New York Civil Liberties Union, remembered as having been seven years in solitary confinement because she was considered violent. Judge Orrin G. Judd of the Federal District Court ordered an end to such

"seclusion" and care caused her to develop interests, Mr. Ennis said.

Mr. Carey also saw and heard about problems. Anita Barrett, counsel for the Legal Aid Society, said only one physician is on duty from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 A.M. This includes breakfast, when patients may sometimes choke on food, and Mr. Ennis said two had died in this fashion in October.

Wheel chairs have been acquired for most of 134 spastics, but only a few are tailored to individual needs. Jeffrey Swerdlow, physical therapist,

said that when patients slump, they increase their bone and muscle troubles—a problem he said carpenters could avert by shaping temporary blocks.

Governor-elect Carey said the state Housing Finance Agency had bond funds which could be used for decentralized facilities. Acting Director Forde said there were community problems in finding sites.

Max Schneier, chairman of the Federation of Parents Organizations, estimated that it cost \$15,500 a year for patients at Willowbrook and \$7,500 at a small facility like Garfield.