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Our opinion

## He shows more interest

"It's definitely encouraging .. it seems hopeful that he might make life better for the residents." That was the comment of a supervisor at Willowbrook Developmental Center after Tuesday's visit to the institution which houses 3,000 retarded persons by Governor-elect Hugh L. Carey.

Certainly the visit indicated a concern which exceeds that of outgoing Governor Malcolm Wilson, who has had an agreement for major changes in Willowbrook's care awaiting his signature for more than a month.

Governor Wilson has been on Staten Island twice since he succeeded Nelson Rockefeller — in May at a Republican ball and in September for the opening of an election campaign office. But on neither visit did he take a look at conditions at Willowbrook.

Mr. Carey said that his tour will help him determine whether the agreement with the New York State Association for Retarded Children and other groups is financially possible. Governor Wilson apparently didn't need to visit to come to the conclusion that the state can't afford the improvements.

As a result, the trial of the suit by the groups seeking improved care is continuing in Brooklyn Federal Court. And Mr. Carey will be confronted with that agreement right after his inauguration.