

## Willowbrook Hospital Gets a New Director

By MARY BREASTED

The State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene has appointed Harold C. Piepenbrink, a mental health administrator in Illinois, to be director of Staten Island's Willowbrook Development Center for the mentally retarded, despite objections from the president of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, an organization of parents of Willowbrook patients.

The announcement of Mr. Piepenbrink's appointment came yesterday from the office of Commissioner Lawrence C. Kolb in Albany. It said that the new Willowbrook chief had been selected "with the help of a screening committee that included parents and consumer representatives."

Arthur Pinto, the parent representative on the screening committee who is also president of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, said yesterday that he had not approved of Mr. Piepenbrink's appointment.

Although Mr. Pinto explained that the society was not unalterably opposed to Mr. Piepenbrink, he said that it had "reservations" about the new director's background that were "serious enough" to make his group want to discuss them directly with Mr. Piepenbrink.

Mr. Pinto said that the reservations had stemmed in part from a discussion he had had with the chairman of a similar parents committee in Illinois who had told him that Mr. Piepenbrink withdrew his application for a job as head of an Illinois facility for the retarded after learning that he would have to submit to an interview with a parents' committee there.

Mr. Piepenbrink, reached at his Willowbrook office late yesterday afternoon, replied that he had been considering applying for a job with the Downstate Facility for Mental Retardation in Illinois, but that after learning he would have to appear before a "screening committee" he decided not to apply.



The Chicago Tribune  
Harold C. Piepenbrink

"I thought it was a screening committee in the Department of Mental Health," he said. "I didn't know it was a parents' committee. And I felt that if the Department of Mental Health didn't know enough about my qualifications after 23 years, then I didn't want to work there. I thought they just wanted to pick someone they already had in mind."

"I need all the help I can get," he said wearily at the close of the telephone interview. "Because if we're going to try to turn this place around, we're looking for support."