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sembly Committee on Mental Health's next public hearing which is expected to hear testimony from the five employees suspended in the wake of the Ramirez death. No date has been set.

Under questioning, Dr. Slawinski admitted yesterday that "there should have been better procedures" and that "we noticed certain flaws" in the search procedures for missing residents.

But, he insisted, "nothing has been hidden or whitewashed," as union officials have charged, nor, he said, are "there simple solutions to the multi-faceted problems of Willowbrook."

"The human dimension," Slawinski said, "makes possi-

ble abuse of any written policy." The real root of the problem in the Ramirez death, he said, was that the administrator in charge of Willowbrook on each of the five days after Ramirez slipped away was never informed.

"The administrator on call is precisely that—on call," Slawinski said. And on each night Ramirez was missing, Slawinski said, never was the chief administrator notified. On Christmas Eve, in fact, Slawinski said, he called the grounds twice and was never informed about the missing resident.

Ramirez was found Dec. 29 about 100 yards from the center administration building. He was naked from the waist down and died of exposure, the coroner reported.

In response to a question from Mrs. Connelly, Slawinski said, "We have not reached the point where we are getting quality care." Some of the problem, he said, is caused by the quality of the center's 4,200 employees.

"If we were in private industry, there would be no problem cleaning house," he said. "The state system seems to protect certain individuals."

Dr. Mesnikoff, former director of the South Beach Psychiatric Center, agreed with Slawinski and said the state "must find a way of rooting out those who are unsuitable" to work with the retarded. The "rights of employees," he said, "must be balanced with the quality of service."

Mesnikoff said that "millions of dollars poured into Willowbrook will not solve the problem" and he called for "radical change in the system of service" for the retarded.

Mesnikoff advocated "comprehensive care at all turns in the curve," in response to a question from Mrs. Connelly about "open door" policies for the retarded. "We do need secure settings for those who require it," he said. "The open door setting works with proper supervision."

Anthony Pinto, president of the Willowbrook Benevolent Society, said that with proper supervision Ramirez would never have been allowed to wander from Building 5 and

Ramirez' physician, Cheng, said that Ramirez needed one-to-one care.

To the applause of Willowbrook employees in the audience, representatives of the Civil Service Employees Association charged that Willowbrook's administration was "engaged in a whitewash" in the death of Ramirez and has "put the blame on the backs of the low-level employees."

The five suspended employees (an attendant, a security guard, two nurses and two therapy aides) acted properly, said Randolph Jacobs, public information officer for the union. "It is beyond belief that the chiefs of service were not aware," he said.