



A motorcade, formed to protest conditions at Willowbrook Developmental School, moves slowly through the center. Advance Photo by Frank J. Johns.

## Cars protest Willowbrook conditions

A motorcade of about 35 parents and 75 citizen's band radio operators was conducted to protest conditions at Willowbrook Developmental Center yesterday in front of the center's Victory Blvd. entrance.

The demonstration, sponsored by the Willowbrook Chapter of the Benevolent Society of Retarded Children and the Staten Island CB Radio Club, was organized to decry "the lack of progress in compliance with the consent order," according to pamphlets being handed out by society members.

The consent order refers to the agreement, signed by Federal Court Judge Orrin G. Judd in May, 1975, which put the state under court order to reduce patient population as well as improve living conditions at the sprawling institution.

Mrs. Genevieve Camen, president of the society, rapped Gov. Hugh Carey and the state Department of Mental Hygiene for neglect and mismanagement of the center, once the largest institution for the mentally retarded in the country.

"Our argument is not with Dr. Levester Cannon," Mrs. Camen said, referring to the center's new director, "because he is just a puppet taking orders from the state Department of Hygiene."

"We want Gov. Carey and his administrators to know that we will not tolerate the conditions at Willowbrook and we will continue to demonstrate here and at his office until the situation is remedied," she went on.

Last month the center was criticized for having made "limited progress" over the preceding six month period by the Willowbrook Review Panel.

The panel said that many of the 2,600 retarded persons living at the center were being victimized by serious staff management, environmental and programing problems.