



Dr. Henry Wisniewski, the new director for the Institute for Basic Research at Willowbrook, gets the governor's ear.

# Carey at Willowbrook:

# 'I see changes' in attitudes, grounds



Some of the special equipment at the center is examined by the governor. . .



...And later the governor's wristwatch is examined by a young patient.

S.I. Advance Photos by Barry Schwartz

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month's payroll to Willowbrook residents amounted to \$6,700 and the program will be expanded by June 30, 1975.

Carey noted that one child he met in the workshop was a visible example of changes at the institution. "The last time I was here, this boy was lying on his back, in a restraining situation. Now he's up and about and obviously making progress," Carey said.

Later, Carey was taken to Building 12, used for younger multi-handicapped children. There, Carey was shown one ward used for children who are both deaf and legally blind. Under a recently expanded federally-assisted program, children are trained to feed themselves and many are able to leave the institution on weekends for visits with their families.

"We've been very successful with this program," said Mrs. Frances Ryan, a Willowbrook aide. "Parents who saw no hope are now getting involved with their children."

Afterwards, at the Institute for Basic Research, Carey reiterated his hope that the institute, which he admitted had been "about 80 per cent underutilized" since it opened in 1968, would eventually lead to prevention of many cases of mental retardation.

Carey inspected several laboratories inside the facility with its new director, Dr. Henry Wisniewski, and later visited retarded children housed in the new hospital unit there. The children, who are cared for at the institute while convalescing from medical treatment, were formerly quartered in Willowbrook's Building 2 before it was closed. "In the old Willowbrook," Carey said as he greeted one youngster in the new hospital unit, "this girl would probably have been strapped down in Building 2 with flies hovering around her. Today she is getting the best of care, and in pleasant surroundings."

Mrs. Genevieve Kames, president of the Parents Benevolent Association, later said that Carey was shown the two best buildings at the institution, both of which are unrepresentative of conditions there.

"We've been trying to see the governor for months," Mrs. Kamen said. "Why didn't they show him the buildings where children have no programs at all, no decent food and inadequate medical treatment?" Mrs. Kamen also said she had been prevented from seeing Carey during his tour yesterday.



Gov. Carey talks with officials during his tour of the Willowbrook Developmental Center.

S.I. Advance Photo by Barry Schwartz

## Carey at Willowbrook: I see changes here

By JOHN E. HURLEY

Gov. Hugh Carey, who in April 1975 signed the consent decree paving the way for substantial changes at Willowbrook Developmental Center, returned for a quick tour of the institution yesterday and left with a generally favorable impression over what he termed a "substantial improvement" in conditions there.

"I see changes and that's what I'm looking for," said Carey, who spent about a half-hour visiting two of Willowbrook's buildings before touring the nearby Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation. Carey was accompanied by Thomas Coughlin, assistant commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene, and Dr. Kevin Cahill, Carey's adviser on health affairs.

"As a matter of record, there have been changes in the physical plant here," said Carey, who last visited Willowbrook as governor-elect in December 1974, before the consent decree was signed and several of Willowbrook's wards depopulated. "But I also think the improvement in the attitudes of both the

patients and staff is visible," he said.

Under the consent decree signed by Gov. Carey, Willowbrook's population is to be reduced to 250 residents by 1981, and Carey also hopes to halve the number of retarded persons living in all state developmental centers by that time in order to insure the flow of federal funds into state mental hygiene facilities.

Asked yesterday whether he was disappointed in the fact that many of the demands of the consent judgment have not yet been met, Carey said: "It's been a learning process for all of us. We've found that some things are feasible and some things aren't feasible. We're trying to accomplish what's in the best interests of these children and I see many changes for the better."

Carey's first stop on the tour, escorted by Willowbrook director Dr. Levester Cannon, was to a vocational workshop program in Building 61, where residents have been earning money packaging screws and bolts for a firm under contract. Dr. Cannon said last

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