

# Willowbrook teachers resist order to work 40-hour week

By ROBERT MIRALDI

About 200 teachers at Willowbrook Developmental Center, upset about proposed changes and increases in their working schedules, demonstrated yesterday afternoon in front of the facility's administration building.

Chanting "Cannon doesn't care" about the center's director, Dr. Levester Cannon, the teachers paraded through the lobby of the administration building, carrying signs and yelling slogans.

Two slogans — "8 to 5 just don't jive"

and "7 to 3 without a cup of tea" — summed up the two issues which are upsetting the center's 120 teachers and 65 teachers' assistants.

A Dec. 13 memorandum from Cannon told the teachers that on Feb. 1 they might be asked to work shifts, including weekends, instead of the routine 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. day.

Additionally, the memorandum said, the teachers, and all other professional members of Willowbrook's 4,500-member staff, will have to work a 40-hour week. The teachers have been

asked to work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Traditionally," says David Bienstock, spokesman for the newly formed Willowbrook Teachers Association, "professionals, like teachers, have not considered themselves as labor."

But now, Beinstock says, the teachers are being treated like any other group in the labor market. "Cannon has waved our contract in our face," he says, "and frankly they have us over a barrel."

The teachers' contract, which is being

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Willowbrook's director, Dr. Levester Cannon, left, talks to demonstrating teachers in the lobby of the facility's administration building. The teachers were protesting longer working hours.

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