

## Thievery Abounds At Willowbrook

The systematic ripoff of Willowbrook continues in the form of about \$350,000 a year in stolen food, blankets, clothing and vocational tools, the state facility's director, Dr. Levester Cannon, conceded recently.

"Things are stolen almost before they are delivered," reported the embattled director. "The theft rate is greater here than at other state institutions."

Genevieve Caman, president of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, Willowbrook chapter, claims that thefts are just the tip of the iceberg. She said that her group has uncovered evidence of drinking, pot smoking and tardiness among employes.

"The little these kids get are stolen from them," lamented Mrs. Caman, who maintains an office at the 2,450-patient institution. "The saddest part is that the severely or profoundly retarded are completely helpless. They just can't fight back."

Dr. Cannon noted that there is much to be desired with some of the 4,400 staff members who are scattered over the 50-building complex. Others have been hard-working and dedicated in their work.

"The final solution is to phase down Willowbrook," Cannon said. "With patients leaving for community-based homes, we hope to be serving only 250 patients by 1981. We can then be more selective in who we hire."

Cannon said it was extremely hard to police the 397-acre institution grounds, where employes, ex-employes, delivery men and passersby come and go almost at will.

Stolen items included recent delivery of 200 pounds of butter, office photo copying equipment, 180 pounds of bologna and the coats and other personal clothing of both patients and employes.

Dr. Cannon projects a reduction to 1,950 patients by March. He conceded that the placement of patients has not been on schedule.