

## It's your opinion

### *Longer hours could hurt kids*

We are writing in reference to the article "Willowbrook teachers resist 40 hour work week," printed in the Advance Friday, Jan. 21.

The article did not convey the seriousness of the situation at Willowbrook nor did it give a fair representation of the issues involved. The teachers do not want to work a 40-hour work week because they were not hired to work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but were hired to work 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with time off the grounds to be devoted to preparation for classroom activity.

Contrary to the Advance and Dr. Cannon, these off-the-ground hours are not "leisure hours". These hours are spent in writing lesson plans, evaluating the children, research work and graduate study. We feel that our professional integrity is being compromised.

As usual, the administration does not seem to care about the children as increasing the teachers' work week will only cause teachers' morale to go down, which will invariably result in a decrease of quality education at Willowbrook. Working with severely and profoundly retarded children can at once be rewarding and depressing. It is difficult enough to work under the many adverse conditions that exist at Willowbrook, such as no uniform curriculum, no classroom supplies, small classrooms and large classes, without imposing a longer work day upon us.

We are not interested in what looks good on paper, but what will benefit the children. When Dr. Cannon was asked how this increase in our work week would benefit the children (as the extra time will not be spent in the classroom) he refused to answer us. The possibility looms large that he refused to answer us because the increase will not benefit the children but will only cause Dr. Cannon to appear to look good in the eyes of the court.

JUDITH DOYLE.

Willowbrook

(The letter was also signed by Lillian Labita.)