



While staffer Tony Campisi watches, a Willowbrook resident uses a heat sealer to seal packages of curlers that have been put together by other Willowbrook residents.

S.I. Advance Photos by Barry Schwartz

Louis Siegel, overall director of the workshop, Willowbrook is seeking contracts for more difficult packaging products. Currently the workshop has five contracts.

Some of the residents in the workshop are finding the current projects boring. Packaging screws and folding sanitary belts, for example, have become too easy. Thus, the program's supervisors are looking elsewhere for more difficult projects.

More perplexing, Willowbrook, offi-

cial are finding, is locating companies who are willing to contract with the state. Harrington points to difficult economic conditions as one roadblock to securing contracts with private companies.

But also, he says, "you have to sell yourself to companies."

"We're a business, not a charity. We're not looking for a handout. We have a business here. We have deadlines to meet and we are meeting them," says Harrington, who has been a direc-

tor of other similar workshops in private agencies on Staten Island.

The need for additional contracts will become urgent shortly when the program expands to include at least 50 more residents. "We're making changes here to accommodate more people," says Dr. Siegel, pointing to the warehouse which is being rehabilitated to accommodate the workshops on two floors.

"What we need now," Dr. Siegel says, "is companies to offer us contracts."