

Judge delays Willowbrook takeover ruling

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A federal court judge in Albany delayed a decision yesterday on whether the validity of a private group's takeover of part of the Willowbrook Developmental Center should be determined

by a state or a federal court.

After hearing arguments by attorneys for the state and the union representing Willowbrook workers, Judge Robert T. Foley said he will allow a week for the union lawyer to prepare a brief explaining why seven Willowbrook buildings should not be turned over to the state

United Cerebral Palsy Association.

Meanwhile, as the legal bickering over the state-to-UCP transfer entered its fifth week in the courts, approximately 60 Willowbrook workers protested the planned deal on the grounds of the developmental center.

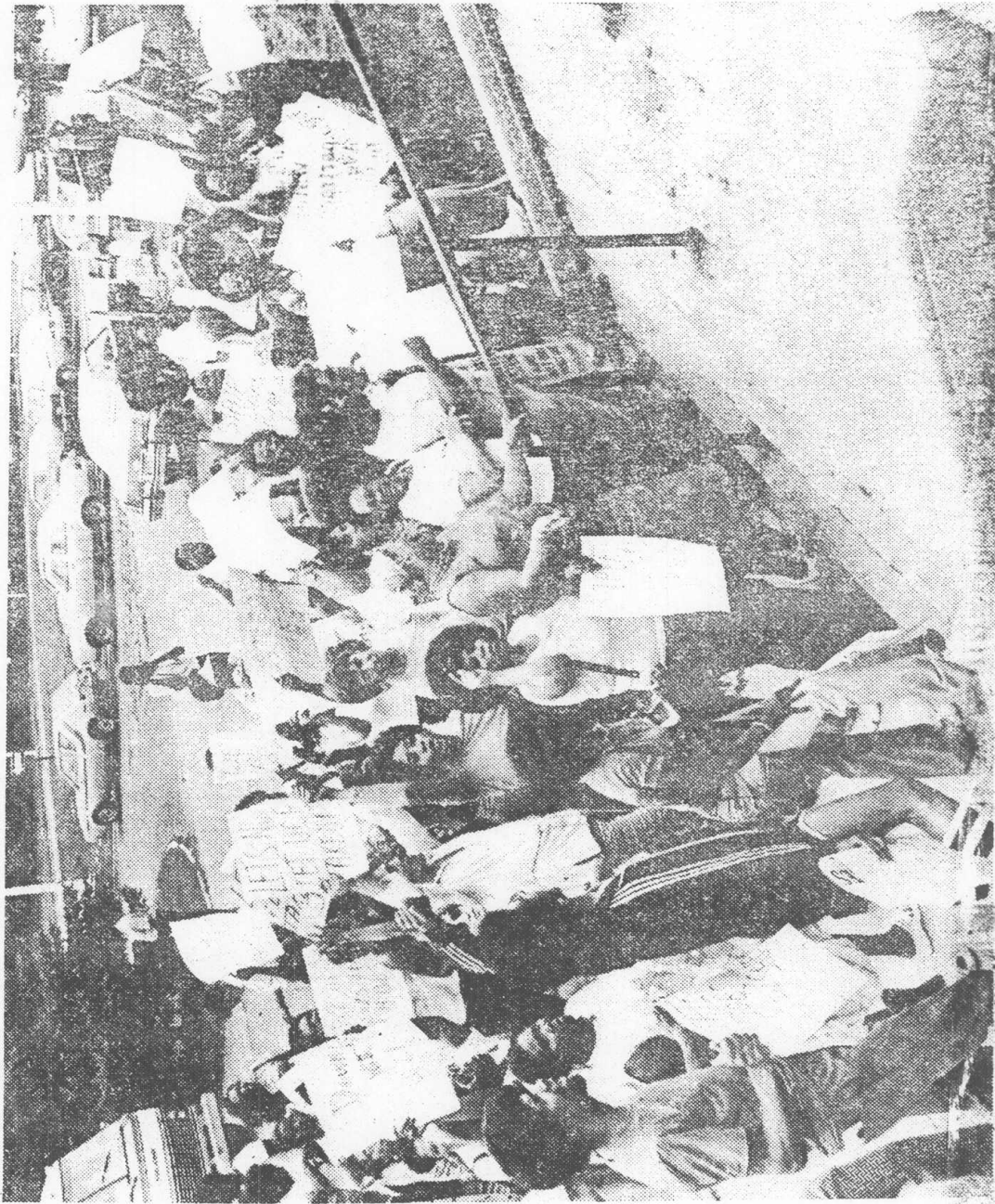
Carrying makeshift signs and chant-

ing slogans objecting to the takeover, the employees, most of them therapy aides, marched from the Willowbrook entrance to the steps of the administration building, about a quarter of a mile away.

There they yelled for an appearance by the facility's director, Dr. Levester Cannon. When they were told he was in Manhattan, they settled for a quiet confrontation with Frances Ryan, deputy director for treatment services.

Upset by the prospect of losing their jobs to the private group's own employees, the state workers began to quiz Ms. Ryan about what she knew about the UCP arrangement, why the workers weren't told more than they knew and

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Willowbrook workers rally outside Building 1, protesting a planned takeover of buildings by a private group and waiting to be recognized by a Willowbrook administration official.

Advance Photo by Robert...