

# Willowbrook's destiny passes into hands of a tough administrator

By BRUCE ALPERT

U.S. District Court Judge John R. Bartels looked across his Brooklyn courtroom to a long wooden table where James Introne and Thomas A. Coughlin were sitting.

"You must always keep in mind the vision of those hopeless people and the need to do everything possible to help them," said Bartels, looking directly at Introne, the 32-year-old Schenectady native named to replace Coughlin as state mental retardation commissioner. Both were in Bartels' courtroom last week during a hearing about the future of a Manhattan center housing 126 former Staten Island Developmental Center residents.

"Victims" of the mentally retarded came naturally for Coughlin, who last week officially replaced Richard Houghton as head of the state's prison system. Coughlin, a Brooklyn native and former state trooper, is the father of a retarded daughter, Tracy, 19. It was her need for services not available in Watertown, N.Y. in the 1960s, that prompted Coughlin to enter the mental retardation field.

Introne, a former deputy budget director with a master's degree in public administration from Penn State University, promised to follow the judge's advice, although he does not bring the same personal experience to the job.

He is a professional administrator whose specialty is whipping budgets into shape. In contrast to Coughlin, who is known to fly into temper tantrums, Introne is soft spoken and rarely shows much emotion.

State mental retardation officials say he may be just the right man for the job in 1979, just as Coughlin, they say, was the correct choice to run the 27,000-employee department in 1978 and serve as acting director of the Staten Island Developmental Center in 1975.

Coughlin, 42, a resident of Ravena, joined the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in 1975.