

Counselors in the apartments say the mass delivery of services contradicts the spirit of "normalization" espoused by the Willowbrook Consent Decree.

They complain that people who are capable of traveling and shopping for groceries or clothes on their own are instead forced to use vans and the clothing store operated by United Cerebral Palsy, and to eat frozen meals delivered by one of the agency's subcontractors.

Schonhorn acknowledged financial transactions involving associates of United Cerebral Palsy, but he said "the rule is only if you save money," adding that competitive bids were solicited before any purchase.

Air conditioners cooling dormito-

ries and offices at the Warner Center, for example, were bought through the chief of the agency's internal audit team, Eulalie Manhertz. Mrs. Manhertz's husband, Hubert, owns an outlet for electrical appliances in Brooklyn, J&R Radio and Television Service.

The agency's 9,000 square-foot warehouse in Newark is rented from Maxwell Ehrlich, a wholesale furniture broker who donated desks, chairs and cabinets for the agency's headquarters. Located at 19 Rose Terr., the warehouse stocks medical instruments, toiletries, secretarial and art materials.

Schonhorn's business associates uniformly declined comment, but therapists, low-level administrators and clerks in the agency with access to memorandums and financial records agreed to anonymous interviews. During the Advance investigation, several nervous employees related the following turn of events.

In the second month of the Advance inquiry, the agency's comptroller, Joseph Tyrian, confiscated all copies of the Karl D. Warner Center's computerized financial ledgers from lower-level administrators to whom they were habitually distributed.

During the same period, Keith Penman, acting director of the Warner Center, threatened at a staff meeting to dismiss any employee caught "leaking" information to reporters. His warning echoed a memo dated Aug. 3, 1979,

obtained by the Advance, which was signed by Schonhorn and promised "disciplinary procedures" against staff members who spoke to reporters.

Members of the Willowbrook Benevolent Society, an association of parents of the mentally retarded on Staten Island, said their contact with agency administrators is severely limited.

"They look upon the parents as a hindrance to what they're trying to do," said Anthony Pinto, a society trustee.

Another member, who asked not to be identified, said parents were refused data on the agency's expenditure of patient funds for clothing. Recent requests for meetings with agency administrators, including Schonhorn and Penman, have been rebuffed, he said, forcing the parents to communicate by letter.

In addition to the audit by Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, two probes of United Cerebral Palsy are under way. The office of the state comptroller is preparing a report on the agency's vendors and purchasing practices, sources in the state government said. And the Governor's Commission on Quality of Care is investigating the case of Dotinel White, the 23-year-old woman who died during medical treatment, according to Paul F. Stavis, commission counsel.

(First article in a six-part series.)

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