

# CSI-

Mrs. Connelly and Harry Friedland, SIRRDC chairman, acknowledge that the Willowbrook property cannot accommodate both the college proposal as it stands now and all the plans made by advocates for the handicapped.

While they said they will not ask for the state to deny the college's request for property, both Mrs. Connelly and Friedland questioned whether the college needs as much as 187 acres.

"One thing that disturbs me is that so much damn space is devoted to parking — space that could be used for human services," Friedland said.

Mrs. Connelly also noted that the college plans to use ground-level rather than multi-story parking structures, and added, "The college's bite gets bigger and bigger. When I first heard about their proposal, they were talking about something like 106 acres."

She said it may be possible to convince the college to trim its request. "I think there's room to bargain," she said.

Mrs. Connelly acknowledged that she would rather have the college build a new campus in Ocean Breeze. College officials bought a 110-acre site there years ago for that purpose, but now say that relocating to Willowbrook would be less expensive because they can renovate some of SIDC's facilities.

"One problem I see (with moving CSI to Willowbrook) is the transportation," she said.

She said Willowbrook is less convenient in terms of mass transit and college traffic could put a considerable strain on Victory Boulevard, the main access road to the Willowbrook grounds. About 5,200 students currently attend CSI's two campuses each day.

The college hopes to build an access ramp between the Willowbrook grounds and the Willowbrook Expressway, Mrs. Connelly noted. But she questioned whether funding could be obtained for that project, and whether the ramp might destroy some of the open area that city officials are hoping to preserve. "I think this whole issue needs fuller discussion," Mrs. Connelly said.

But even despite her reservations, she acknowledged that Willowbrook is a "fantastic place for a campus" and said, "It beats the idea of selling the land piecemeal to developers."

Friedland also said he is not against the college proposal.

"We just want a fair shake," he said. "I just hope the consideration for our proposal will be as great as consideration for the college. What disturbs me is that this all seems too pre-determined."

"The task force was set up as a democratic body to weight proposals for disposition of the grounds, but you don't have to read between the lines to see what direction the state is heading. Everything indicates the college is going to go there."

"I just hope there is room for both of us. I hope so. I sure hope so."