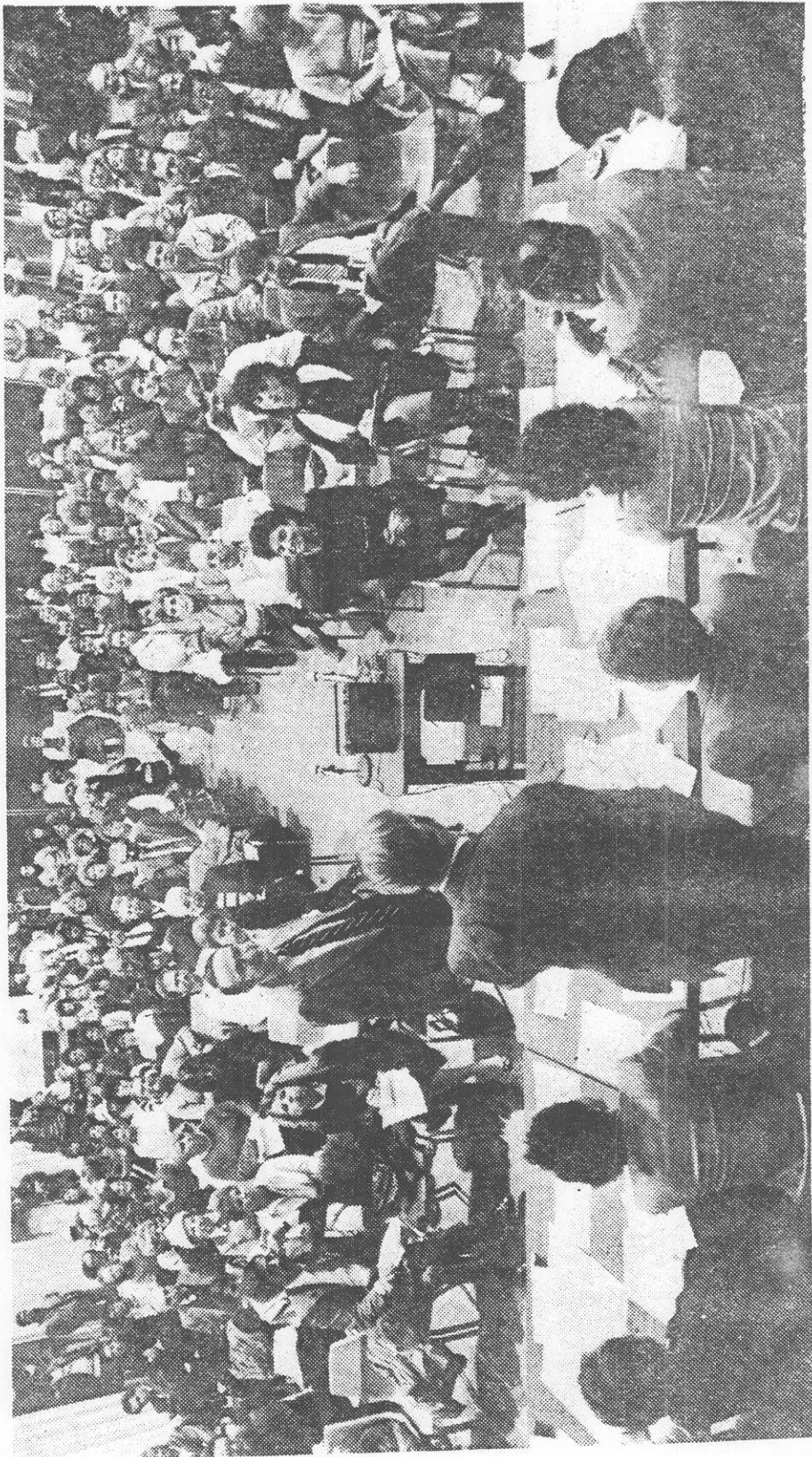


SRO crowd hears debate on SIDC site



A crowd packs a hearing room in Sea View Hospital and Home, where a task force takes public opinion on what to do with the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook.

5.1. Advance Photo by Steve Zaffarano

By JULIE MACK
Advance Staff Writer

A spirited debate over the proposed relocation of College of Staten Island highlighted a public hearing last night on disposition of soon-to-be vacated property at Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

The hearing, sponsored by a state task force studying redevelopment of the Willowbrook site, also drew environmentalists, advocates for the retarded, animal lovers, Little League supporters and members of the Jewish community, who lobbied for their proposals for the 300 acres of state-owned property.

In all, more than 30 people addressed the task force during the hearing, which attracted a standing-room-only crowd. Despite the crowd, it was an orderly meeting, interrupted only by occasional applause.

The issue which drew the most response was College of Staten Island's (CSI) request for 187 acres to consolidate its present campuses in Sunnyside and St. George.

The proposal drew fire from Arthur Careccia of the Ocean

(See HEARING, Page A 8)