

## A look back

# Carey made Willowbrook a priority

By JULIE MACK  
Advance Staff Writer

Peter Goldmark had been state budget director for only three days when the Willowbrook lawsuit was tossed onto his desk.

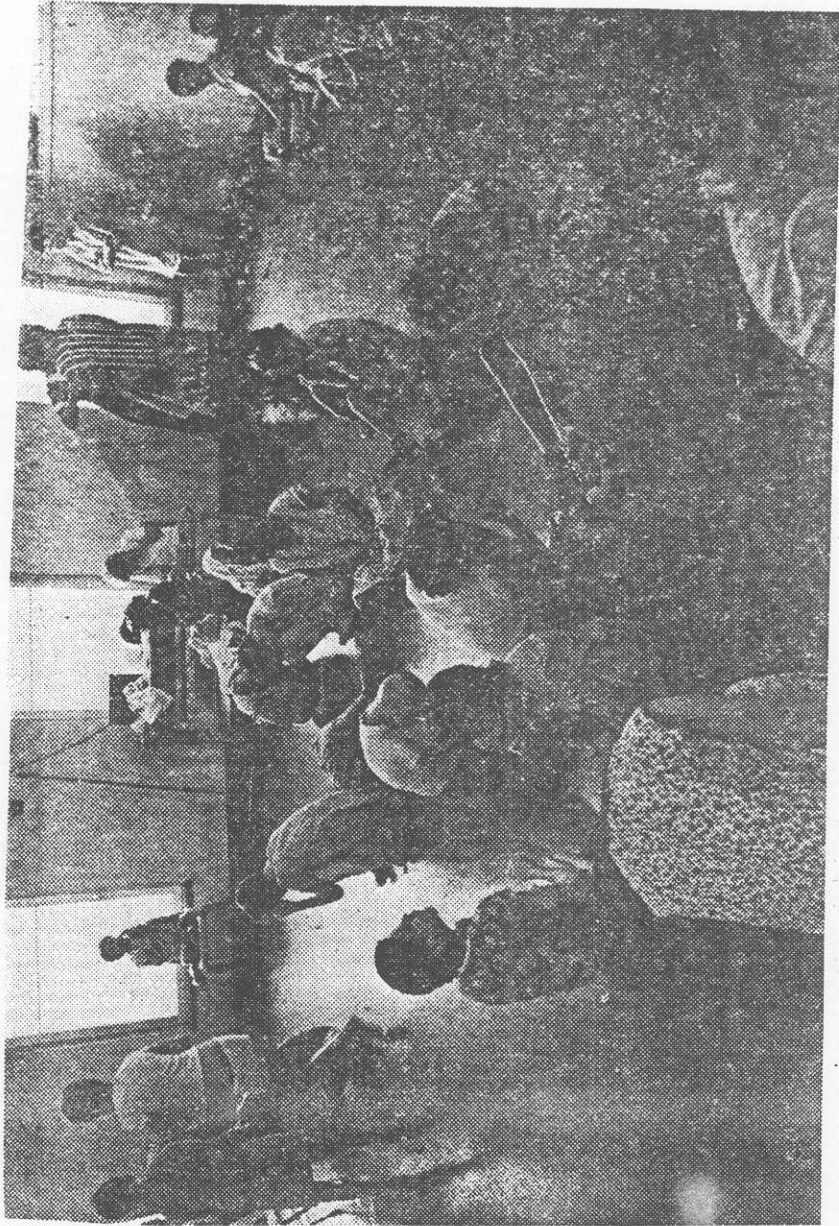
This was 1975, and Goldmark was part of the new administration brought in by Hugh Carey,

who had just won the governor's seat. Carey had made a campaign pledge to upgrade conditions at Willowbrook State School (now called the Staten Island Developmental Center) and he was ready to use his office to improve life for the mentally retarded.

"It was a matter of philoso-

phy," said Arthur Webb, the current commissioner of the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. "Carey thought the Rockefeller administration had two black marks against it — the uprising at Attica (state prison) and the policy on mental retardation, which was a disaster."

Before taking the job as Carey's budget director, Goldmark served as head of human services in Massachusetts. In that capacity, he negotiated a consent decree to settle a lawsuit involving a Massachusetts institution for the mentally retarded. Now he was asked to do



Girls in Willowbrook sit in a large bare, room and wait for their next meal in this 1971 photo. S. I. Advance Photo