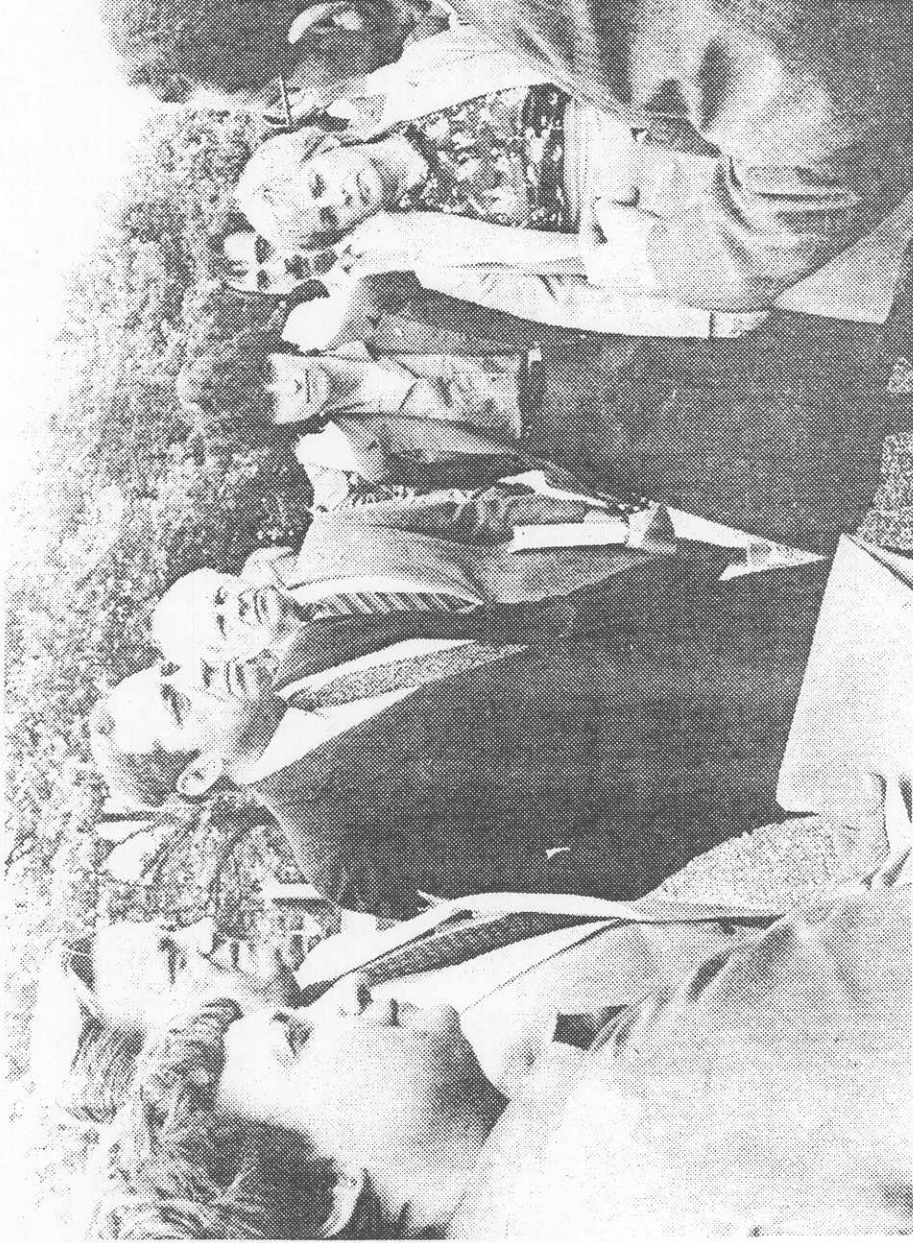


Cuomo



Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, on his visit to the state Institute for Basic Research, Willowbrook, finds himself in the middle of the Corson's Brook Woods controversy.

S.I. Advance Photo by Steve Zaffarano

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Henry Williams of the Department of Environmental Conservation, who says that as much of the woods should be preserved as possible.

Webb's agency wants to build the group homes to house 72 Islanders who will be leaving the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) when the facility closes in 1987. Webb claims Corson's Woods, located on Forest Hill Road in the southeast corner of the SIDC campus, is the only site that meets all the agency's criteria.

The proposal has drawn the wrath of environmentalists, who claim the tract is one of the most environmentally significant sites on the Island.

When the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) began construction of the homes in November, the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods went to court and obtained a temporary injunction. That injunction has since been overturned by an appeals court, leaving OMRDD free to build the homes.

However, in the past few weeks, OMRDD has been working to soothe the environmentalists' concerns by commissioning