

Lots of talk, but no accomodation

Last month, we criticized the College of Staten Island for boosting the amount of land it wants at the Staten Island Developmental Center from 187 acres to 220 acres. "Someone at the College of Staten Island is getting greedy," we observed.

Now, the shoe is on the other foot. Now, it is the state that has become greedy. Last week it announced it will keep 160 acres at the developmental center after it closes, and not the 90 acres it originally suggested.

That's nervy. If the college is being stubborn and inflexible in asking for an additional 43 acres, then the same can be said of the developmental center. In fact, the new requests from both institutions seem to be based less on administrative considerations than the perpetuation of a governmental tug of war.

The cry from both sides seems to be, "We want! We want! We want!" The mad scramble is on. It's

every institution for itself, and the heck with everyone else. It's grab-bag time at Willowbrook.

Oh, they talk a good game of accommodation. When each side appeared to be losing the land grab, it urged accommodation on the other. Now, however, we know that they didn't mean it. Each wants all it can get, and neither wants to talk to the other. As a result, we get demands, but precious little accommodation.

We'll repeat what we've said many times before: There is room at the developmental center for both sides, if they want it. Apparently they don't, or they would have discussed the matter a long time ago.

This is what is needed. Not unilateral announcements, but discussion and — dare we say it? — accommodation. We've heard that word a lot lately. Now, let's see it put into action.