

Audit: No records of OMRDD supply \$\$\$

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ALBANY — More than \$44.3 million of taxpayers' money has been spent on equipment for 21 state developmental centers in the past decade, and an audit issued yesterday said state officials aren't keeping track of it.

Management at the central office of the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as well as development center officials were blamed for the lack of oversight

by state Comptroller Edward Regan.

Equipment referred to in the comptroller's audit ranged from computers and office machines to refrigerators and beds.

Among the institutions governed by OMRDD is the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook. The former Willowbrook State School is scheduled to close in 1987.

OMRDD, Regan said, "spent thousands of dollars to implement

a computerized equipment control system just four years ago." During 1981, the comptroller added, agency officials conducted a time-consuming count of all costly equipment in use statewide. The information was recorded on a centralized computer system.

"All management had to do was keep the data current and take annual inventory counts," Regan said. "Instead, they allowed the whole system to fall into disuse."

The computerized system is in

place at the central office and at all OMRDD facilities except the Westchester Developmental Center. Ironically, that center still uses a manual system, and auditors found it functioned well.

Regan said the remaining 20 developmental centers are plugged into the computer system and didn't have updated inventory records. The central office, the comptroller noted, hasn't taken a proper count of its own inventory in four years.