

# NARCOTICS CENTER FACES OPPOSITION

## New Staten Island Facility Is Resented by Public

By CLAYTON KNOWLES

Civic misgivings posed a stumbling block yesterday for Wagner administration plans to speed the opening of a new halfway house on Staten Island, offering six times the facilities and care now available there for the rehabilitation of narcotics addicts.

Borough President Albert V. Maniscalco was said to be opposing Mayor Wagner on the project which, having cleared the Community Mental Health Board, soon will be put before the Board of Estimate for clearance.

It was understood the Borough President's opposition was rooted in public resentment still felt in the borough over the establishment 18 months ago of Daytop Lodge at Tottenville, which will operate the new 200-patient Daytop Village at Princess Bay.

The aim of the halfway house is to help addicts, who seek to drop the habit, to the point where within a year they leave the center during the day to work at a job. The hope is to rehabilitate them completely within 18 months.

Mr. Maniscalco could not be reached for comment yesterday, but an aide said the Borough President "knows nothing about any authorization for a project."

Dr. John R. Philp first deputy health commissioner, acknowledged local opposition to the project but said that experience at Daytop Lodge "demonstrates that this is one of the avenues we should be following."

Head of the subcommittee on narcotics of the city's Interdepartmental Health Council, Dr. Philp said the city "has to try a number of different approaches and this one looks good."

### Set Up by Court Agency

Daytop Lodge, set up by the probation department of the Brooklyn Supreme Court, can care for only 35 addicts trying to break the narcotics habit. It operates under a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health and is directed by Dave Deitch, a 31-year-old former addict.

In taking over the larger project, Daytop Lodge is incorporating as a nonprofit agency to handle the expanded \$200,000-a-year city program. Within five years of its opening, it is hoped the new facility will be able to treat 1,000 addicts.

A 10-acre site, formerly occupied by a Marist Novitiate but now privately owned, is being sought under lease. Negotiations are still in progress. Dr. Philp said that, while repairs are needed, the buildings on the site can be quickly made ready for use.

He said that a report in yesterday's Staten Island Advance, suggesting the facility would be in operation within a month, jumped the gun and could stir local controversy.

Daytop Lodge plans for the new facility rely largely on group therapy and self-help techniques much like those used by Alcoholics Anonymous. Similar techniques have been used by Synanon, a private foundation that started on the West Coast.

The new facility will accept addicts on referral from city and state courts, probation and parole authorities and on a voluntary basis. Dr. Daniel Casriel will head the medical-psychiatric staff, the Rev. William B. O'Brien, a member of the staff of Auxiliary Bishop John M. Fearn of the New York Roman Catholic Archdiocese, heads the nine-member board for the new facility.