

**A MAJOR
MINNESOTA
v
PROBLEM**

This is the story of over 6,000 Minnesota sons and daughters who happen to be mentally retarded. Their level of care is set by the level of our concern.

Five percent of Minnesota's mentally retarded need institutional care.

We can do something about their serious problems, or we can close our minds and hearts to them.

On September 9 and 10, 1964, the Minnesota Association for Retarded Children conducted a building-by-building survey of staffing in Minnesota's state institutions for the mentally retarded at Cambridge, Faribault and Brainerd. We found serious staff shortages in all buildings. Present staff does an excellent job but a greatly improved staff to patient ratio is needed.

Not all patients are like those shown in this report. Staffing, however, is a serious problem at all patient levels.

**Minnesota Association for Retarded Children
2742 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408**

"It is a fact that the institutions for the mentally retarded have been seriously neglected. The lack of staff is absolutely unbelievable.

"It is often said that the measure of a society is the way in which it cares for its handicapped. We do not come out very well when the measurement is applied to us and I am determined to bring about a change. "

GOVERNOR KARL F. ROLVAAG

Hundreds of patients sleep excessively, wander aimlessly.
These are your neighbors' sons.

57% of the institutionalized retarded are profoundly or severely retarded.

"We need more personnel so as to be able to work more closely with patients, thereby teaching them to learn to live with one another and to help prepare them for the possibility of living outside the institution. "

A Psychiatric Technician

Photo by Earl Seubert, Minneapolis Tribune



Lack of programming and treatment cause patients to regress.

According to the American Association on Mental Deficiency, 1434 additional patient care workers are needed to meet their standards.

"On July 4, 1964, we took him home for his 23rd birthday and a week-end vacation. We kept him a week trying to help his 16 large boils heal. "

A Mother

Photo by Earl Seubert, Minneapolis Tribune



Nearly 1, 000 helpless patients are poorly fed in a rushed fashion, mostly by other patients.

"Quality of patient-workers has gone down and there are not enough employees to give good patient care."

A Psychiatric Technician



"Employees are unable to give enough individual care or properly clean and care for wards. "

"Then, too, she beats her head on the floor until it bleeds if no one stops her—there was no one to stop her and the sore caused by her banging was infected and smelled bad. "

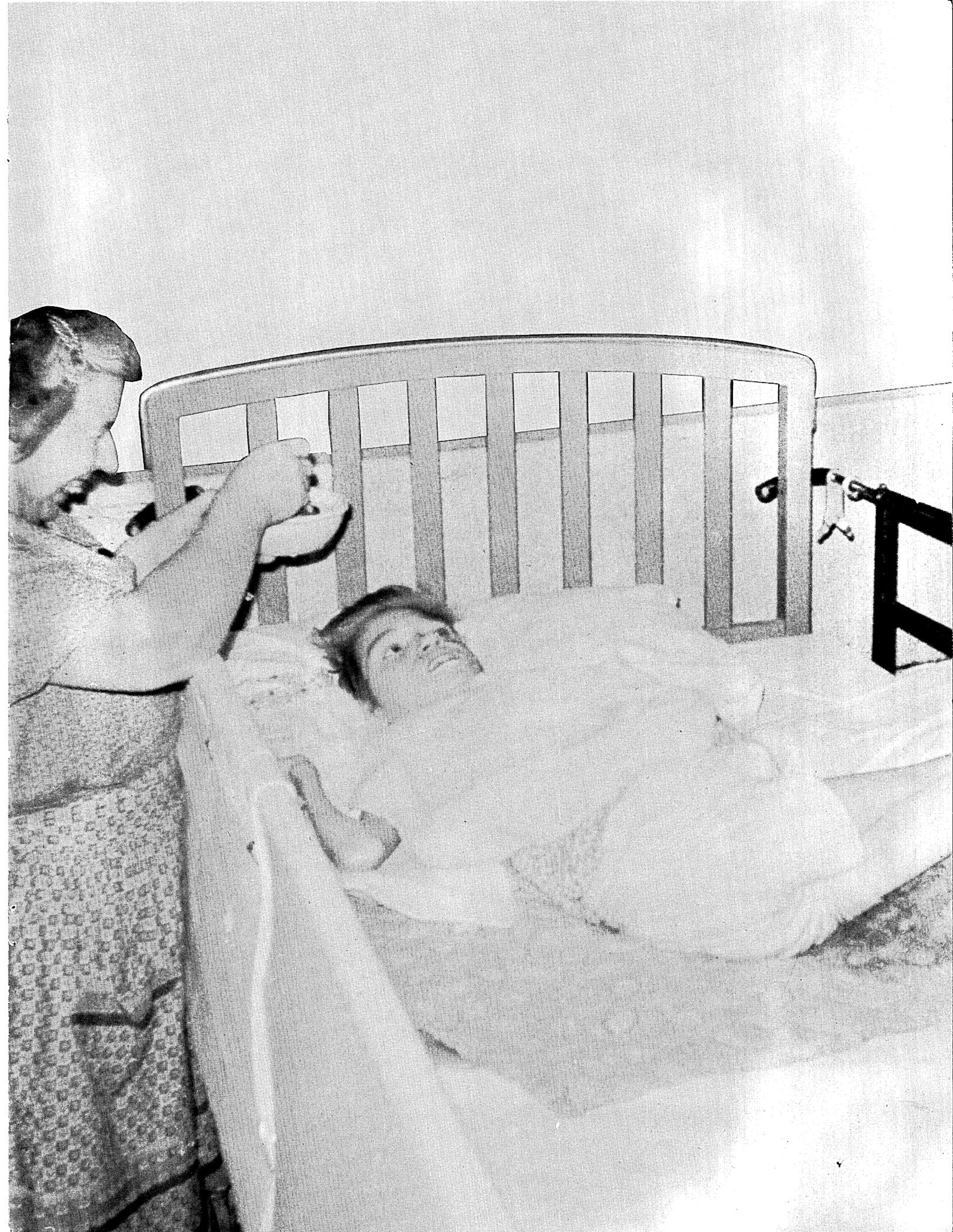
A Mother



Over 500 patients are confined to bed constantly. 2, 996 receive medication regularly. 2, 003 are also physically handicapped.

"Everything must be hurried so that there is no time to give individual attention to the patients. We barely have time for custodial care. "

A Psychiatric Technician



Just being able to feed yourself gives great personal satisfaction.

"Many more of them could be taught self help and toilet training... this is impossible with the number of technicians on duty. "

A Psychiatric Technician



Some new buildings provide adequate housing but staffing is no better than in older buildings.

"When being alone, it is quite a responsibility to watch 113 patients in two dormitories, in addition to having reports, etc., to make out. "

A Psychiatric Technician

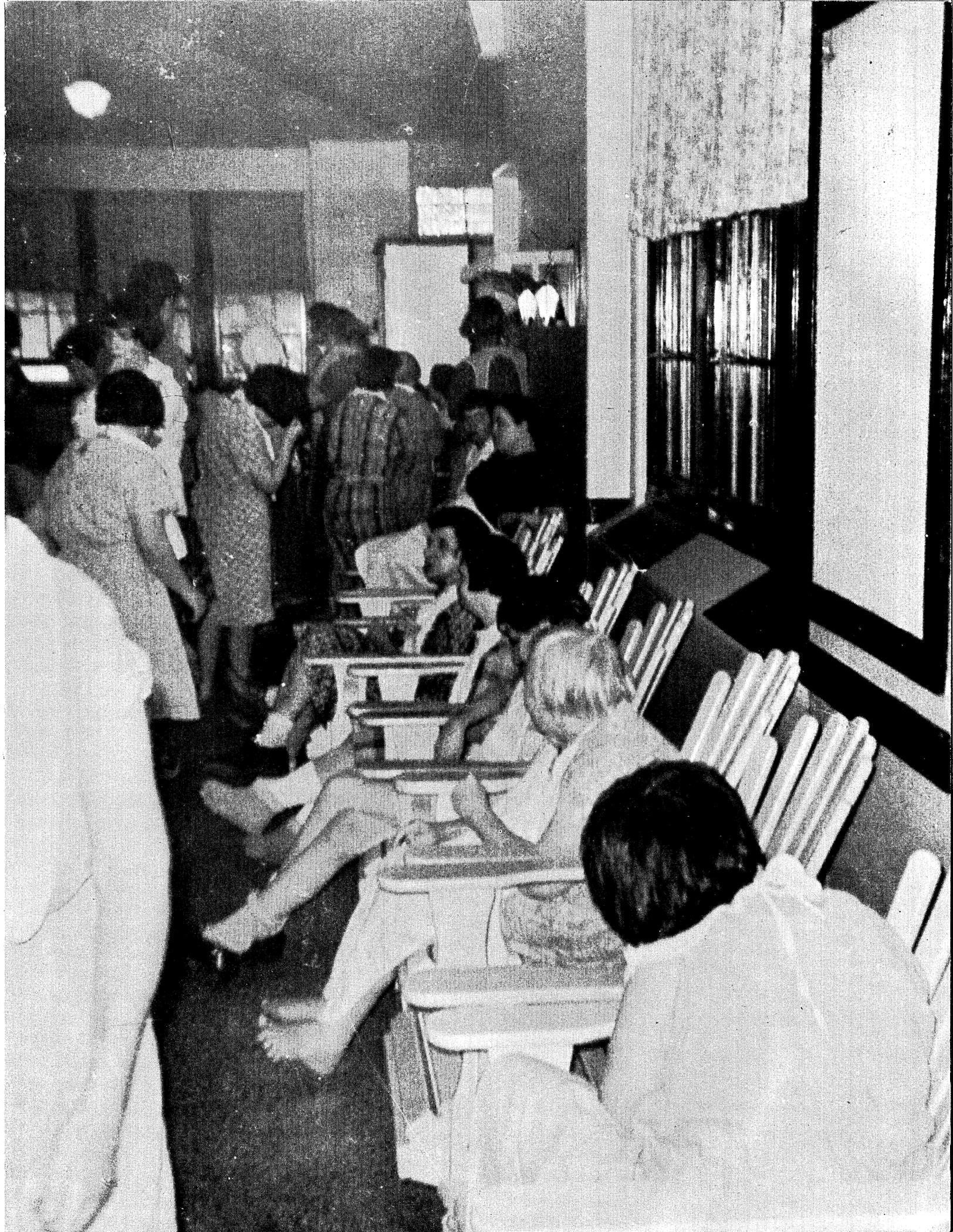
Photo by Earl Seubert, Minneapolis Tribune



Overcrowded buildings, lack of staff.

"Confusion... too many of each type of patient packed together, making them relinquish some of their former niceties they enjoyed."

A Psychiatric Technician



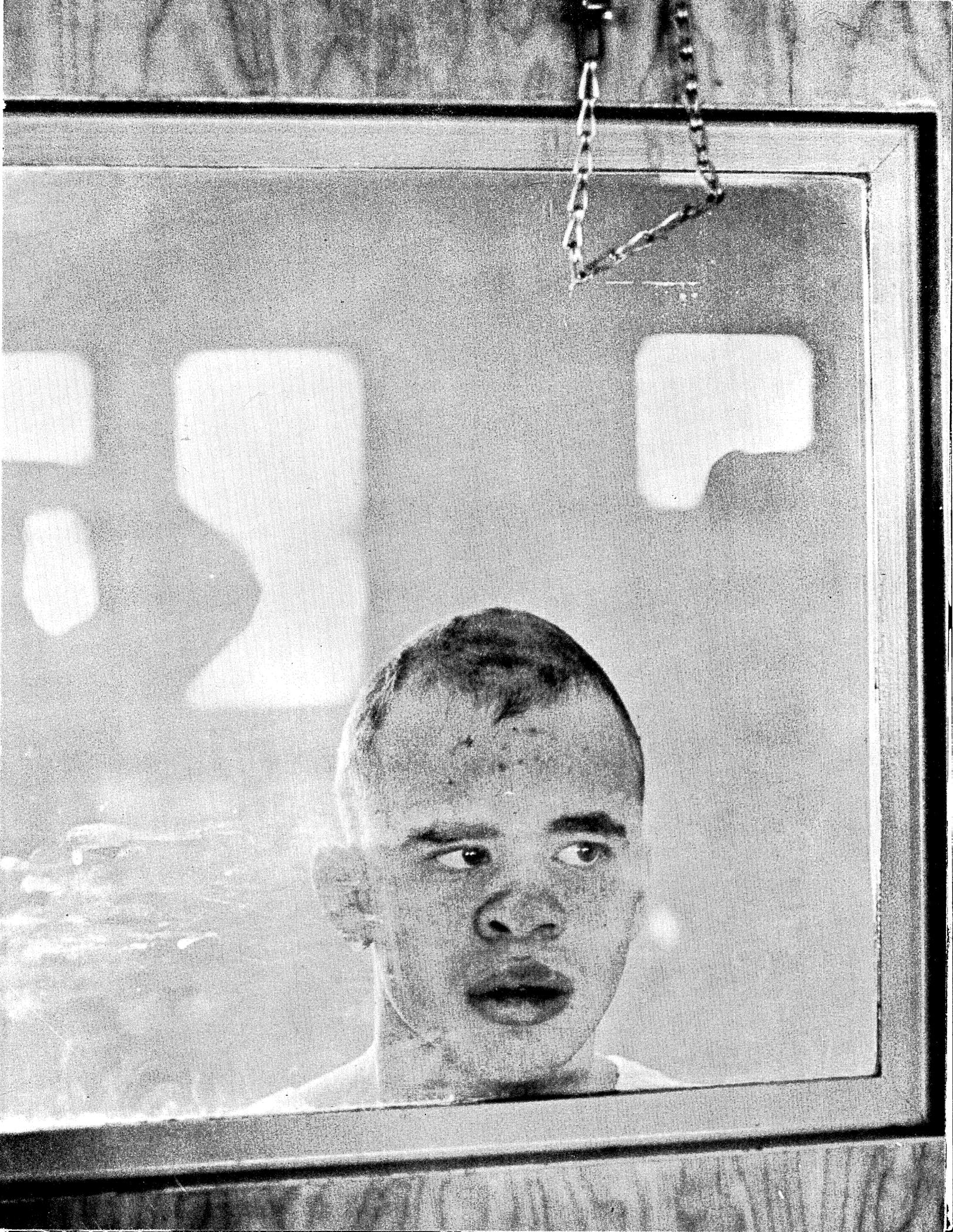
Confined in isolation for months.

Shortage of staff prevents treatment or proper care.

"We work so shorthanded that we cannot spend any time with residents while supervising the building and doing all food service work and housekeeping. "

A Psychiatric Technician

Photo by Earl Seubert, Minneapolis Tribune



A 104 bed dormitory, often attended by only one worker at night.

Many buildings at Faribault and Cambridge are from 25% to 100% overcrowded.

"If more than one patient becomes disturbed or ill during the night, I cannot do justice to these patients for I am here alone. "

A Psychiatric Technician

Photo by Earl Seubert, Minneapolis Tribune



Patients help each other as much as possible.

"There isn't sufficient help to see that the patient gets proper hygiene; brushing teeth, bathing, protection for epileptics, proper treatment for nursing care..."

A Psychiatric Technician



The legislature is now in session and considering these needs.

WHAT IS LACKING

- At least 833 additional employees, mostly patient care workers.
- Adequate housing for 2, 700 patients in crowded and obsolete buildings and on the waiting list.
- Your personal concern and help.

YOU can change this from a story of HOPELESSNESS to a story of HOPE. Give your support and that of your organization.

