

Willowbrook, city transit included

State spending up \$1 billion

By HOWARD CLARK

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller sent to the legislature today a "justifiable, realistic" budget of \$8.88 billion that calls for a spending increase of almost \$1 billion but includes no major programs or taxes.

It also had no provisions for tax relief. This was expected to disappoint many state legislators who were looking to a surplus at the end of the current fiscal year that could be used for tax reductions.

Among the increases, there

is an additional \$46 million for the state's mental hospitals, including Willowbrook State School. Conditions at these institutions became an issue after the Advance focused the spotlight on Willowbrook in 1971. The amount for Willowbrook could not be ascertained immediately.

Another \$40 million of increased spending would be for subway, commuter and other mass transportation programs in the metropolitan area.

A surplus of \$75 million is anticipated for the current fiscal year ending March 31, Rock-

efeller said, but \$66 million of rise by \$159 million, including other programs with the result that federal aid in the next fiscal year may drop by 50 per cent, from \$442 million to \$220 million.

Another \$32 million of the increase was earmarked for the restoration of the 10 per cent reduction of welfare benefits to most of the recipients. All the increases in spending would be covered by anticipated growth of state revenues in the next fiscal year.

Much of the budget plan was devoted to complaints about cuts in federal aid. Rockefeller said Congress has clamped a ceiling on some welfare and

Sources close to the governor said the state also is arguing with the federal government about another \$195 million the state says the federal government owes New York.

Rockefeller said the federal aid in the next fiscal year will all come from the federal revenue-sharing program. He noted that the state revenue-sharing program will provide \$200 million to localities in

(Continued on Page 5)

the next fiscal year. Added to the amounts they will be receiving from the federal revenue sharing program, localities could expect almost \$500 million in funds next year, sources said.

Rockefeller said in his budget message that the cutback of federal funds to the state have led to "hard decisions regarding the future of state programs for day care, child welfare and other supporting services."

"Aid can no longer be open-ended," he said in the message, hinting at drastic changes in programs under which the state shares in the cost with local communities.

Sources close to the governor say that one method would be for the state to require cost estimates and detailed plans before funding the projects. This would apply to such things as local treatment centers for the mentally ill.

The budget plan also would create a special \$150 million fund for income tax refunds. Rockefeller said the state may have withheld too much in state income tax payroll withholding this fiscal year.

Among other items in the budget were:

● A \$564 million budget for the State University to cover expected enrollment increases. The amount represents a budget increase of about \$64 million.

● \$19.6 million for state employees to pay for a contractual agreement about productivity improvements.

● \$136 million for drug treatment and methadone maintenance programs, an increase of \$29 million.

● \$15 million for the arts, an increase of \$2 million.

● A \$34.9 million budget for the Environmental Conservation Department, an increase of \$3.6 million, of which \$750,000 would go to help administer the money from the \$1.15 billion bond issue approved by the voters last fall.

● \$36 million to finance the state share of urban renewal projects across the state.

● \$220 million for building highways, the same amount as last year.

"The budget which I submit to you today represents a sound balance between justifiable optimism and realistic caution," Rockefeller said in his message to the legislature.

"It will allow us to make good use of our present resources while we plan for future improvements."