

## Conklin Bucks Carey on Kolb

Senate Deputy Majority Leader William Conklin said yesterday that he would try to block confirmation of Dr. Lawrence Kolb, Gov. Carey's appointee as commissioner of mental health, if Kolb opposed removing jurisdiction of the mentally retarded from the department.

"I could not support a commissioner who did not see that the problems of the retarded are completely different than those of the mentally ill," said Conklin. "Mental retardation has been a stepchild of the psychiatric profession and the department, and we'll never get rid of the disgrace of the Willowbrooks until we recognize that fact."

Conklin said that he was writing a letter to Gov. Carey reminding him of his campaign promise that he would establish a separate office for the mentally retarded and offering to work with Conklin on legislation setting it up.

Conklin, who has a retarded son, said that the removal of the retarded from the department's authority has been "fought for years by the high-paid psychiatrists in the department. The retarded do not have to lie on a couch and they do not have to be in institutions."

The veteran Brooklyn senator said that setting up a separate office would not be costly and that it could result in savings of \$50 million. —Gene Spagnoli