

# Mental Health Nominee Hits Another Stall

By GENE SPAGNOLI

Albany, April 29 (News Bureau) — Sen. William Conklin (R-Brooklyn) held up again today the confirmation of Dr. Lawrence Kolb, Gov. Carey's nominee for mental hygiene commissioner, to await the governor's action on a bill to create a separate office for mental retardation.

Sen. John Marchi (R-C-S.I.) chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, which is holding the confirmation hearings, said Conklin had asked for the delay. Carey has until next Tuesday to act on the bill.

## Link to Questioning

"The action the governor takes can affect our questioning," said Marchi, "for it will make a good deal of difference in the scope of the department whether retarded patients are under its control."

Conklin has been fighting for a separate department for years and has been delaying action on Kolb because the nominee wants to keep the retarded in the care of the Mental Hygiene Department.

Sen. Howard Nolan (D-Albany) objected to the delay and said: "I think Sen. Conklin is holding it up to encourage the governor to sign the bill." But he did not muster enough support and the Kolb hearing was put off.

Carey today took no action on the bill, which is sponsored by Conklin. But the governor, in sending to the Legislature his own bill on treating the retarded, left no doubt that he would veto the Conklin measure.

Carey's bill would create a division of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, but unlike Conklin's would place this unit in the Mental Hygiene Department.

Conklin, who has a retarded son, has had a long-running feud with psychiatrists, and does not believe that they should have authority in the treatment of the retarded. Kolb is a psychiatrist.

The governor said his bill would give "the mentally retarded and the disabled an ombudsman at the highest level of government."