

# Bill for Agency on Retarded Axed by Gov; Conklin Yells

By GENE SPAGNOLI

Albany, May 6 (News Bureau)—Gov. Carey, casting his first veto, rejected today, the bill creating an office for the mentally retarded. His action drew a stinging rebuke from Senate Deputy Majority Leader William Conklin (Brooklyn), who labeled it an "obscene gesture."

"This defiance," said Conklin, who has long led a fight for a separate office for the retarded, "flouts the overwhelming will of the Legislature and the governor's pledge to sign the bill."

"It is unthinkable that Gov. Carey's first veto of his career is on the only bill that he vowed to sign during his political campaign. Mr. Carey has exercised a pattern of deceit which prevails beyond any that I have seen in over 30 years of political life."

Conklin ended his statement with the comment: "I will never again believe Hugh Carey."

The stocky senator, in his statement released immediately after the veto, said that Carey "elbowed his way into a convention of parents and friends of retarded children on Oct. 12 in New York City and knowingly and intentionally sought the support of 800 people at that convention by pledging to sign a bill creating a separate administration of programs for the retarded."

Conklin said Carey sent his staff to different meetings "to

reaffirm the pledge" and said this "circle of deception was completed today with the governor's veto."

The bill that Carey vetoed would have put the separate office in the Executive Department and thus it would have been responsible to the governor only. A statement by the governor explaining his veto was awaited.

Referring to the governor's bill to establish a separate office but keep it in the Department of Mental Hygiene, Conklin said:

"It's a sham and a delusion designed to complete the deception. It is obvious that the governor has refused to accept the personal responsibility for improvement of programs for the retarded and the developmentally disabled."

#### Vows to Block Kolb

Conklin, the father of a retarded youngster, has long been at odds with the "psychiatric bureaucracy" in the Department of Mental Hygiene and vowed today to fight to block confirmation of Dr. Lawrence Kolb, Carey's appointee as new commissioner.

"This appointee," said Conklin, "is a man who was part and parcel of the abuses and the tragedy of this bankrupt bureaucracy over the past 20 years, having served as chief of its research program."

Conklin made no mention of any attempt to override the veto. That would be difficult, for it would require many assembly Democrats to vote against a Democratic governor.