

## Tax \$\$ paying state doctor's Bronx-to-Albany commuting bill

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A Republican state assemblyman says a top official of the Department of Mental Hygiene is living at state expense at facilities in the Bronx and commuting to his job in Albany, also at state expense.

Assemblyman Robert Wertz of Suffolk County, chairman of the Assembly Minority Task Force on Mental Hygiene, said yesterday that Dr. Hugh F. Butts, first deputy commissioner of the department, is billing the state for his commuting expenses.

Butts was director of the Bronx Psychiatric Center when named to his \$47,717-a-year post by Mental Hygiene Commissioner Lawrence Kolb in July.

Like some other directors of state institutions, Butts had a residence maintained by the state on the grounds of the center. In his case, it is a 10-room dwelling inhabited by Butts, his wife and his three daughters, and served by three state employes, Wertz said.

But Wertz said Butts had been allowed to retain that residence once appointed to his Albany job, and that the

new director of the Bronx center, Egbert Wilson, is commuting there from his home in Somerset, N.J.

In addition, Wertz said, Butt was for the first 10 weeks in his new job allowed to charge the state for his commuting expenses from the Bronx to Albany, including hotel bills

and meals.

After 10 weeks, the Department of Audit and Control blocked further such payments, Wertz said, but it has not yet demanded a restitution of previous payments.

Spokesman for the Department of Mental Hygiene could not be reached for comment.