

## ***Mental Hygiene break-up hit by interest groups***

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Representatives of mental institutions, boards of visitors, and unions met here Saturday to map plans to oppose Gov. Hugh Carey's proposal to split the giant Department of Mental Hygiene into three separate agencies.

The coalition involves some directors of mental hygiene facilities, the boards of visitors, which oversee conditions in institutions, and members of the Civil Service Employees Association, which represents most of the department's 60,000 workers.

Dr. Hagop Mashikian, director of the Suffolk Developmental Center, said they were concerned that the proposal was being "put together in a sloppy manner that will have serious consequences to patient care, to local governments, and to administration, and which will cost a hell of a lot of money with much less return."

He said they opposed the plan to let some local governments take over facilities at their option, and to have facility directors serve at the pleasure of the commissioner, with reduced civil service protections.

He said the former would create "options without accountability." And he said the latter would "open the door to political appointees."