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the courts," Mrs. Abzug maintained, referring to a series of court orders defining the constitutional rights of the institutionalized retarded and setting strict guidelines for turning around Willowbrook's history of abuse and neglect.

But she indicated she does "not have power" over the Brooklyn Federal

Court judge who agreed in March to the UCP takeover.

Nor could she halt such a prospect, she indicated.

But Mrs. Abzug added: "I share your concern for quality health care. I share your concern for what happens to residents. And I share your concern for what happens to working people here."

Department of Mental Hygiene offi-

cialists have "assured me," Mrs. Abzug insisted, that no layoffs will result from the UCP takeover and that 700 affected workers will be trained and reassigned to the remaining 20 buildings, housing approximately 1,800 residents.

"I wish not to make any false promises," Mrs. Abzug said, adding that as mayor she would not permit "the dumping of residents" into community facilities that did not attain the proper standards.

After Mrs. Abzug left Willowbrook, heading for a visit to Village Greens in Arden Heights, the 200 workers began to talk over a strategy for Sept. 5, the date the UCP employe phase-in is set to begin.

Union representatives from two other Island state facilities — South Beach Psychiatric Center and the Institute for Basic Research in Willowbrook — vowed to support any action the Willow-

brook local planned.

But the representatives refused to say if that meant their membership might walk off their jobs also — should the Willowbrook workers choose such a route.

King told the workers and Mrs. Abzug before her departure that the private palsy group has "little experience in dealing with the retarded."

"If they (UCP) do a better job," he said, "it will only be because they will get the money the Department of Mental Hygiene refuses to give us."

The local president also urged the membership to join a demonstration Aug. 25 at UCP's executive offices in Midtown Manhattan "to show solid opposition to this takeover."