

have told a few complaining Willowbrook workers yesterday, "My hands are washed of this place."

¶ Some of the estimated 700 state workers affected in the UCP takeover maintained they had received no new job assignments. Others were in the dark as to when they should report. All were angry, charging "Lady Rumor" prevailed. The state swore that everyone had been redeployed to non-affected buildings, although a precise accounting was unavailable.

¶ More than 100 state workers, mostly from the would-be, UCP-run baby complex, failed to show for work yesterday, opting instead to protest the takeover in Albany. The state said employees whose absence was unsanctioned would be made to account for their whereabouts.

¶ The result of yesterday's demonstration was that many wards of the baby complex were desperately understaffed. Activity in the complex was at a standstill, with UCP-hired therapy aides already on the job claiming they'd been abandoned by state staff.

¶ A five-year-old federally funded deaf-blind program in Building 26, heralded two months ago as "one of the finest in the country," seemed to have fallen victim to the disorganized takeover effort. The program's workers, maintaining they were paid federally, said they, too, received notice of reassignment.

¶ Some of the 240 UCP therapy aides already on staff in the baby complex said they are encountering resistance, and in some cases, threats from state workers displeased over the arrangement.

¶ But state workers, members of the Civil Service Employees Association representing 4,500 Willowbrook workers, argued the UCP employees working in the complex don't know the first thing about care for the retarded, despite six weeks of private training.

Thomas Coughlin, deputy commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene, was due from Albany today to keep an eye on developments at Willowbrook, a spokesman said.

But the spokesman, Cora Hoffmann, answering charges that chaos reigned at the 384-acre institution, commented: "The situation is a little confused, but we feel we have it under control.

"We've taken every precaution," she said, "to comply with the (federal) court order."

She reaffirmed the state's position that no Willowbrook worker will lose his job for the next two years. She said 200 of the 700 affected workers would work under a shared-staffing arrangement

with UCP in three buildings; approximately 100 more had been hired by UCP, thus losing their civil service status, and the remainder had been transferred to other buildings "to enrich programs and make up staffing deficits."

As to the partially federally funded deaf-blind program, aiding 44 youngsters at a cost of nearly \$1 million a year, Mrs. Hoffmann asserted it will stay put, despite the UCP takeover of Building 26, in which the program is operated.

But 15 workers in that program, saying they were hired on federal lines, displayed reassignment slips they received last Thursday, which said simply: "As you were previously notified, you are to be reassigned because of the UCP takeover effective Sept. 23, 1977. Your building assignment is 9."

A federal official for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which monitors the grant, blasted state officials for not informing his office that "changes were even being considered."

"The state," the official, Robert Dantona of HEW said, "must be very careful they're not violating the law of our contract with them. Any changes in this program must be put in writing to this office."

Deaf-blind program workers, confused because their jobs had been taken away, sat idly yesterday. They spoke to Dr. Cannon earlier in the day, and reportedly he told them:

"I'm sick of the parents. I'm sick of everything. There's nothing I can do" except make a recommendation the federal workers remain on their old jobs until private staff is trained to replace them.