

"I was a little nervous to come to work today," explained Michele Galfa of Dongan Hills, a UCP-hired nurse. "It's the first time I've been a nurse before and I want to do a good job. And I worried about the things that would happen today, too."

One state physical therapist in Building 15, who like 700 affected employees are to be transferred to non UCP buildings beginning next week said. "I've worked in this building for 11 years, and I feel like I'm losing all my kids. I just hope they'll be able to receive decent care."

Lucinda Price, 24, of the Bronx explained she had been part of a protest demonstration in Albany Wednesday but decided to come to work yesterday.

In fact, the Building 15 attendant said, she worked a 16-hour shift because other state workers in her building failed to report.

"I'm for anything that will help the children," Miss Price said. "I love my work because I love to give, and I don't like getting pushed out the door."

Another state therapy aide said that for the most part the UCP and state staffs seemed to be working well together.

"You know it isn't easy working with people that are taking away your jobs," she said. "You know it isn't their fault, but it still doesn't make it any easier."

A parent active in Willowbrook affairs expressed despair last night that a sick-out was being tolerated. "This is a home for retarded children," said Genevieve Camen, president of the Willowbrook Benevolent Society, "and that no one at Willowbrook is trying to stop it is an outrage."

In his statement yesterday during UCP orientation, Earl Cunerd, executive director of the United Cerebral Palsy Associations, told the nearly 1,000 new "Willowbrook" workers that "the

program you are about to begin has statewide, national and international implications."

"We are trying to provide the best care (in an institutional setting) under the possible conditions," he said. "Everyone is watching, he claimed, to see if the program will be a success."

Other UCP executives emphasized a similar theme.

Schonhorn, who negotiated the UCP deal with the state, told UCP federally funded employees who've been working at Willowbrook for two months: "Now you'll be given the support you may not have had up till now. I realize that you've been working under conditions that were difficult for you."

State workers say they are demoralized when they hear comparisons pitting state against UCP care.

The baby complex, they say, is the place at Willowbrook where conditions are best, equipment modern and care good. The private palsy group, which has a non-profit designation, thinks care for the retarded will cost approximately \$28,000 a year a resident, much to be paid for by federal funds. The state price tag is said to be comparable.

The private organization believes it will provide better care than that achieved by the state, although state workers, explaining they've worked with the residents for years, say they've got experience in the treatment of developmentally disabled persons on their side.

The takeover idea was agreed to in Brooklyn Federal Court in March. There are, however, union challenges in two courts still outstanding, both disputing the takeover's legality on the grounds it violates the state constitution, state law and existing collective bargaining agreements.