

Eye Job Action in Willowbrook Shift

By THOMAS RAFTERY

Employees at the Willowbrook Developmental Center on Staten Island, angered by alleged violations of their work contract by the State Department of Mental Hygiene, are threatening a job action to protest the takeover of the center by the United Cerebral Palsy Association.

"This is a crisis situation," said Felton King, president of Local 429 of the Civil Service Employees Association. "Our more militant workers are already staging a sickout."

Other officials and members of the 4,000-member local were to announce today what actions they might take to

display their dislike for a court-ordered plan to turn over the care of 625 patients and seven buildings at the 31-building complex to United Cerebral Palsy, a private organization.

The takeover, which is to become effective Sept. 23, has already begun with job reassignments, said Elin Howe, acting director of the center for the retarded, which has 4,000 patients.

Pledge No Job Loss

About 115 CSEA employees have been reassigned this week without incident, said Ms. Howe. She noted that a total of 650 employees will be shifted by the Sept. 23 deadline.

The state said that no state worker will lose his job because of the takeover for the next two years, although some

employees may lose their civil service status, after being shifted to the United Cerebral Palsy payroll.

King charged that as a result of the takeover, more than 800 employees eventually will be axed. He noted that 80% of the workers are minority members and 75% are women.

Employees earlier showed their displeasure with the takeover when a delegation picketed the Capitol building in Albany on Sept. 7. Employees have also demonstrated at Willowbrook and at United Cerebral Palsy headquarters in Manhattan.

The takeover resulted after Federal Judge John Bartel approved the transfer of the seven buildings during a hearing in Brooklyn Federal Court in March.