

Washer breakdowns cause clothes shortage

A shortage of clothing was reported yesterday for 641 Willowbrook Developmental Center residents now under the care of the private United Cerebral Palsy Associations.

According to several workers at the seven buildings taken over by the private agency last week, many residents, including small children, went without a change of clothes for much of yesterday because of the shortage.

"We had everything under control," one therapy aide said, "but many of our residents were not as comfortable as they should have been."

The problem, according to a UCP spokesman, was a mechanical failure in washing machines used by the group to clean the laundry.

Some of the laundry was washed in the afternoon by state employes at the institution's own laundry facilities to al-

leviate the problem, said Atanas T. Kobryn, manager of Willowbrook's business office.

"UCP does have a responsibility to provide its own laundry under the take-over agreement," said Kobryn. "But because of the emergency situation and for humanitarian purposes we did help them out."

That effort was slowed, however, when some state workers balked at cleaning the clothing from the UCP buildings.

"UCP told us that they were going to take care of everything," said Civil Service Employees Association President Felton King. "And our members didn't feel they should help UCP out because their attitude has been that they don't have any use for the state workers."

The CSEA has opposed the UCP take-over of care for 641 of Willowbrook's 2,500 workers, charging that it threatened the jobs of state workers.

The UCP spokesman said the breakdown in its equipment was caused by a huge backlog of laundry from when the state controlled the buildings.