

## Workers delay strike

The union representing an estimated 4,000 state workers at Willowbrook Developmental Center has put off a strike threat until after Oct. 10.

Felton King, president of Willowbrook's chapter of the Civil Service Employees Association, said yesterday union delegates from across the state will convene that day in Concord, N.Y., to discuss the United Cerebral Palsy Association takeover of a portion of Willowbrook.

He said the delegates will then decide if they want to take statewide action to protest the takeover as well as what King called the "contracting out of other institutions to private groups."

The threatened job action became an issue as a result of the transfer of seven buildings with 640 retarded residents to UCP more than two weeks ago.

The controversy centers on potential layoffs at the 2,380-bed institution and the larger issue of job security for state employees.

While saying the agreement with the private group will not in itself lead to job loss, the Department of Mental Hygiene admits there will be layoffs as Willowbrook's population decreases to meet a court-mandated limit of 250 residents by 1981.

Institutions across the state are engaged in such a depopulation effort as well.

"We're still upset," King maintained, "and we're trying to mobilize support within the ranks of CSEA," which represents 143,000 state employees. "And if that support is not forthcoming, then this local will just have to act on its own."