

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Thursday, December 22, 1977

Union head charges special treatment

Connelly's new office work moving rapidly

Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly is receiving special treatment from the massive Department of Mental Hygiene in her planned takeover of office space at the Willowbrook Developmental Center, the institution's top union official charged yesterday.

Felton King, president of Willowbrook's Civil Service Employees Association chapter, said that Mrs. Connelly, by moving her district quarters into Willowbrook's Building 1, is displacing four employees.

King also said it would ordinarily take months to complete renovations in buildings where the institution's retarded people are housed, "but in Mrs. Connelly's case — two days and it's done."

Elin M. Howe, Willowbrook's acting director, denied that Mrs. Connelly is receiving special treatment and expressed alarm that King, as well as other state workers, would complain to the Advance "rather than to me or someone internally."

The four workers, including one man-

ager, who are being moved, Miss Howe added, were scheduled to be reassigned under Willowbrook's current reorganization.

"Of course, (the workers) will be inconvenienced temporarily, but it's the sort of inconvenience that happens in the state system every day," Miss Howe said.

She added that renovation work — which involves the framing of a new door — will be paid for by DMH, which,

in turn, will be reimbursed by a special fund of the State Assembly.

Mrs. Connelly announced last week that she would relocate her district quarters, now on Forest Ave. in West Brighton, by the end of the month when her lease expired.

Her new Willowbrook offices will consist of a two-room suite on the first floor of Building 1, providing more space than that available on Forest Ave., Mrs. Connelly said.

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