

# GOP wants Carey to find \$\$ to stall Willowbrook layoffs

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ALBANY — A Republican proposal to prevent layoffs at Willowbrook Developmental Center and other institutions for the retarded with up to \$20 million in extra money has emerged as one of the major remaining issues in the negotiations over Gov. Carey's proposed budget.

The Republicans want Carey to beef up the Department of Mental Hygiene's budget with an additional \$15 to \$20 million as a backup in the event his plan to transfer a large number of institution residents to community facilities fails.

Carey and the Democratic legislative leaders, however, have so far rejected the proposal and say they are determined to proceed with the transfer plan despite charges from the civil service union that the state intends to "dump" the residents into the community without first providing for the facilities.

Union leaders, meanwhile, have accused Assemblywoman Elizabeth Con-

nolly of leading the fight against the additional allocations and have threatened to put up a candidate to oppose her in the upcoming primary.

At least one of the other major issues in the budget negotiations involves Carey's proposal to change the education aid formula to pump in more state aid to New York, Buffalo and other big cities.

The Republicans oppose the education formula because it would reduce aid for some suburban districts, which are GOP strongholds. "Their attitude is — give it to the cities but don't do it by taking away from us," one source explained.

According to Republican leaders, however, both sides are "well-along" toward an agreement on the formula and will probably reach a compromise by the end of the week. "We'll get there," said State Sen. John J. Marchi yesterday after a meeting on the budget with Carey and leaders from both parties.

Marchi acknowledged his backing of the additional money for the Department of Mental Hygiene, explaining that

he had seen "nothing at this stage to indicate that there has been adequate preparation" to implement the transfer plan.

The Ward Hill Republican said he reached this conclusion after questioning department officials about the availability of community facilities during the budget hearings before his Senate Finance Committee last month.

Mrs. Connelly, meanwhile, denied the charge that she has asked her Democratic superiors to prevent the addition of the \$15 million to \$20 million. While acknowledging that she has discussed the matter with staff members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Mrs. Connelly said she had taken no position on the issue.

"I'm in a holding pattern," explained Mrs. Connelly, the chairwoman of the Assembly Mental Hygiene Committee.

Felton King, the union chief at Willowbrook, said union lobbyists in Albany have identified the East Shore Democrat as one of the main opponents of extra allocations. "I'm telling you right now, Mrs. Connelly is playing games with us," he said.

King said the political action committee in the union has already "drafted" a prospective candidate to oppose Mrs. Connelly in the primary but refused to identify him. King said he had already informed her of the union's political strategy.

Under Carey's proposed 1978 budget, the resident population would be reduced from about 1,700 to 1,250 while the work force would be cut by approximately 1,000. The reductions have been mandated by a 1975 court decision ordering the state to scale down Willowbrook to a 250-bed community facility by 1981.

The Carey administration also has a five-year plan to reduce the resident population at the state's other 20 developmental centers from 20,000 to 8,000.