

Union boss praises Carey job shift pledge

By BRUCE ALPERT

The president of the union representing 3,500 state workers at the Staten Island Developmental Center said yesterday that a pledge by Gov. Carey to transfer state employees to community-based facilities was a "major morale builder."

"I feel very good that apparently he has gone ahead with one of the options that I had been hoping and praying he would," said Felton King, president of the center's Civil Service Employees

Association.

In a speech yesterday at the Hutchings Psychiatric Center in Syracuse, Carey said that by 1982, 1,250 developmental center employees will be given opportunities to transfer to new state-operated community treatment programs.

"To ensure these transfers are effectively accomplished, we will work in close cooperation with CSEA and the Continuity of Employment Committee to develop specific guidelines governing
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recruitment and selection of employees and will ensure continuation of benefits such as seniority, pension credits, collective bargaining rights and necessary training opportunities," Carey said.

King, who has often criticized Carey for moving too "quickly" to empty state institutions at the expense of state workers, said that he has been meeting for the last month with Carey's aides in effort to come to an "understanding." The CSEA president had expressed a fear that thousands of state employees would lose their jobs as a result of the policy of deinstitutionalization.

"Obviously, we are going to have to take careful look at what he is saying," King said. "But we feel a lot better about Carey than we did before."

Asked if the CSEA might endorse Carey over his GOP challenger, Assembly Minority Leader Perry Duryea, King said a decision would not be made until October. "We probably won't endorse anybody in the primary and sit down with Mr. Duryea before making a decision," he said. Carey is being challenged by Lt. Gov. Mary Anne Krupsak and State Sen. Jeremiah Bloom of Queens in the September primary.

In his speech, Carey lashed out at previous Republican administrations, saying that too many former state patients have been concentrated in several areas of the state as a result of poor planning.

Carey said that he would recommend a 300 percent increase in state-staffed community programs to provide services to released psychiatric patients and former residents of state developmental centers for the retarded.