

## Union charges bias in Willowbrook dispute

The leader of Staten Island Developmental Center employees who are protesting for having been docked pay for missed time last month, yesterday accused a top member of the Carey administration of attempting to divide the workers along racial lines.

In a telegram to Meyer Frucher, director of the state labor relations office, Felton King, president of Local 429 of the Civil Service Employees Association, said the local is "shocked that in New York State in 1980 a man in your position should attempt to split black workers from white workers."

"Our local urges you to immediately fly down to the Staten Island Developmental Center," the telegram stated, "and meet with us so we can arrive at a rational and fair solution to this serious issue."

The union's public relations chairman, Jeri Bell, said more than 30 workers had checks released to them yesterday but the protest, in the form of occupation of the administration building in the Willowbrook complex, would continue until the other 340 receive the docked pay.

Administration officials withheld the pay of 371 out of 800 employees who called in sick during a four-day period, July 24 through 27. At the time, the union had been complaining that officially sanctioned understaffing was endangering the welfare of the workers and the 1,100 residents in their care.

Ms. Bell said that although an estimated 300 to 350 of those who called in sick are white, the union has been able to find only one white worker among those who were docked. The administration, she charged, penalized mostly black and Hispanic workers.