



Taking their grievance into Manhattan, non-professional employees of the Staten Island Developmental Center picket outside the World Trade Center against what they term "union busting." S.I. Advance Photos by Robert Parsons

very hard to deal with."

King's suspension, authorized by state mental retardation Commissioner James E. Introne and the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, arose directly from his role in a sit-down strike at the institution Aug. 21-25. He is accused of masterminding the job action, in which about 100 union members occupied the institution's administration building.

The sit-down strike was held to protest the docking of one to four days' pay for 371 workers absent in mid-July during what the institu-

tion's administration has deemed an illegal sickout.

During both incidents, King and workers under his leadership accused the state of failing to respond to their complaints of short-staffing at the developmental center — a condition center administrators vehemently deny.

The protesting CSEA members are assigned primarily to such basic services as washing, feeding and dressing the institution's 1,100 mentally retarded residents.

State officials have declined to discuss the nature of the charges brought against King and other union officers and members at the institution, except to say that they stem from the two alleged job actions. The charges, along with suspensions meted out so far, will be reviewed by an outside arbitrator at an as-yet unscheduled date.