

# Carey requests power to furlough state workers

By JOEL STASHENKO

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Less than a week before presenting his 1982-83 budget proposals, Gov. Hugh Carey has asked for the power to furlough temporarily some or all of New York's 180,000 state workers.

On Wednesday evening, the state Division of the Budget issued a statement saying Carey had asked the Legislature to give him the authority to furlough state employees "without pay" for a "limited period of time" to help deal with "times of dire economic difficulties."

Currently, the state can only lay off its workers for an indefinite period of time.

State Budget Director Mark Lawton said the bill would also allow Carey to order commissioners and state agency heads to "in effect" work without pay.

Lawton said if that happens, Carey "has indicated he would return a comparable portion of

his (\$85,000-a-year) salary to the state."

The furlough plan, Lawton said, is designed to be a "humane way to deal with the state budget crisis."

"It asks a group of employees to accept a slightly reduced salary to ensure that some of their co-workers will not be sacrificed to the unemployment lines," Lawton said.

Some Carey aides have said the state could face an \$800 million revenue shortfall in the coming fiscal year mainly because of federal budget cutting.

The Carey legislation was immediately attacked by leaders of state workers' unions.

William McGowan, head of the state's largest employee union — the Civil Service Employees Association — said the furlough idea "stinks" and that the union intends to fight it in court, if necessary. McGowan's union represents 107,000 mostly blue-collar and clerical state employees.