

Grim news for Snug Harbor, state workers, drivers

Carey: Get set for cuts, new

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ALBANY — Gov. Carey today proposed \$360 million in new taxes and fees, the elimination of 3,800 state jobs and a \$150 hike in City University tuition to balance his record \$27.71 billion

budget proposal. "It is not a political budget. It is not a partisan budget," said Carey, adding that he hopes his withdrawal Friday from the gubernatorial race will allow the politically divided Legislature to approve what he concedes are "difficult" measures for an election year.

Hardest hit by the job reductions, which hits virtually every state agency including the governor's executive staff, is the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook. The retardation center is scheduled to lose 1,119 workers, or nearly half of its work force, during the next 15 months.

The Carey budget would also eliminate all funding for the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Livingston, which is allocated \$300,000 in the current state budget.

S. Meyer Frucher, Carey's labor relations chief, said he hopes many of the "displaced" Willowbrook workers will find employment at both state and privately run community residences. But another Carey aide said some layoffs are "inevitable" as the state moves to comply with a court decree requiring the near emptying of the developmental center.

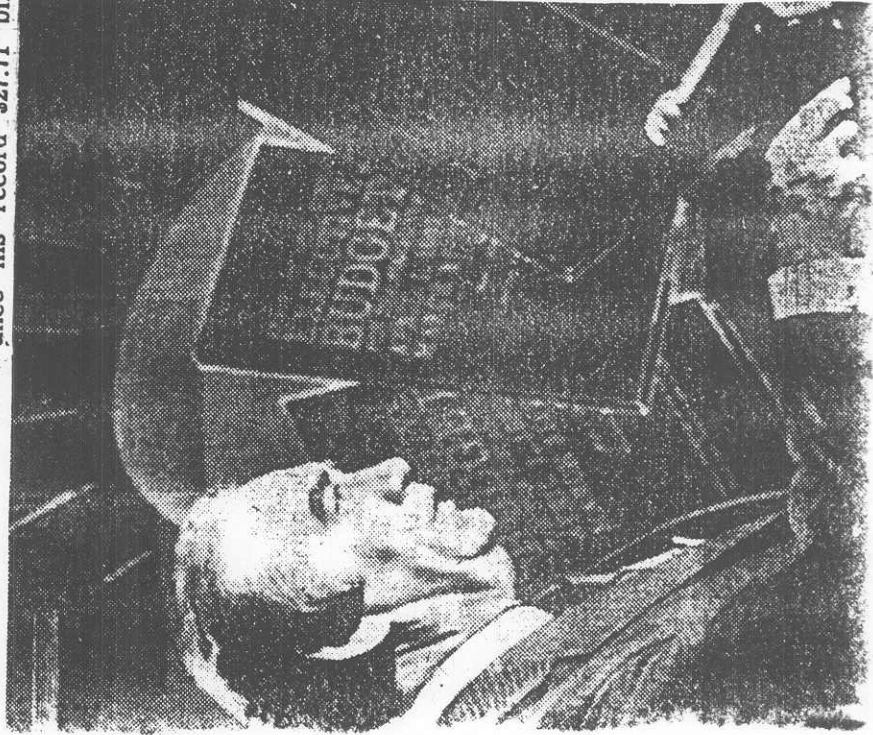
Among the new fees and taxes proposed by Carey is an increase in the gasoline tax from 8 cents a gallon to 8 percent, a move that would hike the cost of a gallon of gas by between 1.5 and 3.5 cents.

Motorists will be hit even harder by a Carey proposal to increase automobile registration fees from the current levy based on a vehicle's weight to a fee of \$8 plus one percent of a vehicle's value. A 3,500-pound car valued at \$10,000 would cost its owner \$108 under the new proposal, up from the current \$26.25.

The automobile measures, Carey said, should raise about \$210 million, all of which would be earmarked for improvements at state bridges and highways, including East River bridges and the Henry Hudson Parkway.

Carey would generate another \$34 million for criminal justice programs — including a special subway police task force — by imposing a 4 percent surcharge on alcohol sales and charging a penalty fee for those convicted of felony and misdemeanor charges.

"We not only want to put them in jail, we want to hit them in the pocket as well," said Carey of his proposal to add unspecified penalties for those convicted



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of crimes ranging from murder to violating state speed limits.

The governor would raise about \$60 million by increasing fees for hunting and fishing licenses by about 15 percent and doubling licensing fees for professionals such as doctors and nurses.

The Carey budget would trim seven faculty and two support positions from the College of Staten Island, far less than some City University officials had expected.

But the governor says three times the number of staff reductions at the Island college and other City University schools will be needed if the university's board of trustees fails to increase tuition from \$925 to \$1,075 a year starting next September. The increased tuition, which would match recent increases awarded the State University of New York, would generate about \$13 million a year.

The \$26.7 billion budget appears to be a sharp increase over the state's current \$16.7 billion spending plan. But budget director C. Mark Lawton explained that for the first time the budget, under the mandate of generally accepted accounting-procedures and a successful legislative suit, reflects federal aid and such items as the state's unemployment insurance fund.

Actual state spending under the proposed budget, he said, is \$17.3 billion, an increase of 7.2 percent over the current spending plan.

Included in the Carey budget is a trimmed down version of the governor's proposal for a state assumption of local Medicaid costs. The new plan would drop the local contribution from 25 to

10 percent over five years and save localities \$5.4 billion over the next five years.

The proposal is less generous than the complete takeover he unsuccessfully tried to push through the Legislature last year when an impasse left the state without a budget a record 42 days into the fiscal year.

Carey said the proposal, combined with his plan for state assumption of 50 percent of local Home Relief costs would give Mayor Koch the \$311 million in increased state aid the mayor anticipates for the city fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The budget would provide modest increases in funding for South Beach Psychiatric Center, Ocean Breeze; the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility, Charleston; and the Institute for Basic Research, Willowbrook. About \$350,000 would be restored for the Willowbrook Review Panel, a court monitor whose funding was eliminated by the Legislature two years ago after complaints the panel had forced the state to fund expensive and unproductive programs for the retarded.

The Staten Island Ferry would receive \$6.1 million in state aid, an increase of nearly \$1.1 million. The increase reflects the ferry system's share of a series of transit taxes enacted by the Legislature last year, budget officials say.

Aides to the mayor said the increase probably will not result in any modification's of the mayor's budget proposal for a doubling of ferry fares to 50 cents round trip.

Carey, in a budget presentation to reporters, said the state

would be unable to make up a loss of nearly \$1.4 million in federal funds. But he proposed a change in state laws so that recently enacted federal tax cuts do not automatically result in a loss of \$125 million in tax revenues to state and local governments.

The governor said that although the state faces serious financial problems because of "devastating" federal aid cutbacks, it is in far better shape than the government he inherited in 1975.

"Willowbrook (Staten Island Developmental Center) was a disgrace. Today it is well on the way to a total solution," he said, adding that the state also cleaned up a much publicized nursing home scandal and put both the city and state finances on sound footing.

The governor said his budget proposal reflects significant new initiatives for restoring crumbling highways and bridges, creating a new water authority, a "jobs crusade" for young people and criminal justice system improvements. But he said it would be up to the Legislature, all of whose members are up for re-election to approve the job reductions, taxes and fees needed to fund the improvements.

"The choices I have made are reflected throughout this budget," Carey said. "As a Legislature, you will accept, modify, or reject my choices. But whether it be through action — or inaction — the choices will be made. And we will each be held accountable for those choices we made this session — this year — and for years to come."