

# Upstate Support Sought By Cuomo on His Budget

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Special to The New York Times

ROCHESTER, Feb. 10 — Governor Cuomo came to western New York today for the first time since his election campaign, seeking to gather support for his proposed state budget and to rebut charges that both he and the budget favor New York City.

Mr. Cuomo visited Buffalo and Rochester on a daylong tour and at virtually every stop he was met by clusters of protesters objecting to some portion of his plan for closing a projected \$1.8 billion deficit in the budget for the fiscal year that begins April 1.

The Governor walked up to each group of pickets to hear their complaints, ranging from students opposed to tuition increases to state workers worried about losing their jobs.

Mr. Cuomo repeatedly noted that in his inaugural address he had stressed the need for the state and its people to share the burden of hard times the way a family would. This notion, he said, was widely applauded. "Then I presented my budget," he added.

## The Cost of Fairness

After passing a group of protesters outside a Buffalo hotel, Mr. Cuomo told a Rotary Club luncheon inside: "We have more people willing to applaud the notion of fairness than are willing to pay for it."

In Rochester, he was met at the airport by a group of state workers from the Craig Developmental Center, a facility for the mentally retarded that the Governor in his budget has proposed to close and convert into a medium-security prison. The workers, who may

lose their jobs in the conversion, produced a letter they said Mr. Cuomo had sent them during the campaign.

The letter said: "If elected Governor of New York State, I do not have any intention of closing Craig Developmental Center for the purpose of converting it to a prison. I hope this will ease the anxieties you and those you represent may have about the future of Craig."

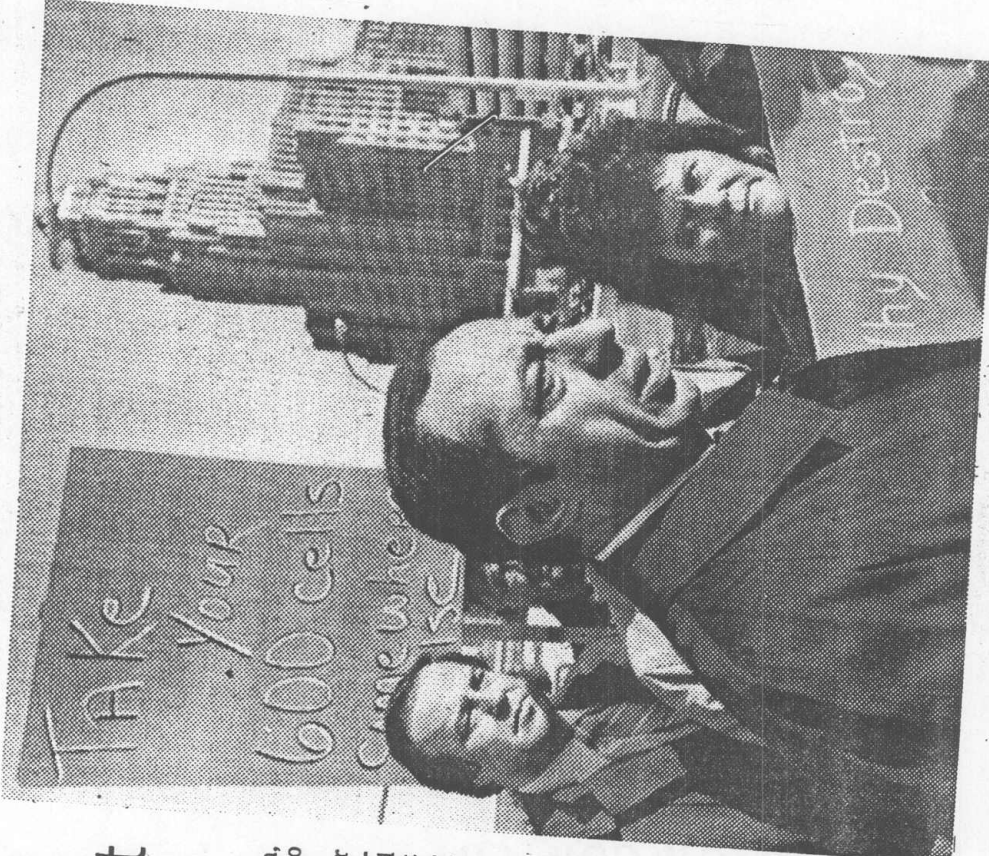
## Defends His Position

Mr. Cuomo said today that he did not specifically recall the letter but that it was probably sent by his campaign officials. He insisted, however, that his current position was not inconsistent. He said the facility was being closed because it was inadequate and did not meet Federal standards.

Several times during the day local reporters or citizens raised questions about whether Mr. Cuomo — who is from Queens and trailed in the November election behind the Republican nominee, Lewis E. Lehrman, in most of upstate New York — was tilting toward New York City or had shown a lack of interest in the upstate region.

Mr. Cuomo arrived in Buffalo armed with statistics to show how much the state spends outside New York City on the state police, on construction for the State University and on aid to combat cattle disease.

The Governor noted that the Buffalo area, hard hit by the recession, would get a special \$5 million job-retraining program and that a bond issue for rebuilding roads would be "skewed" to direct extra help to western New York.



During a visit to Buffalo yesterday, Governor Cuomo stopped to talk with a group of demonstrators opposing the proposed conversion of the Gowanda state hospital to a prison. Seen in the background is Buffalo's City Hall.

Associated Press

He also used his trip to announce formally his proposal for a rise in the maximum unemployment insurance benefit to \$170 a week from the present \$125.

His proposed bill would also provide increases to \$180 in 1984 and \$190 in 1985. The increases would be tied to some tightening of eligibility requirements.