



Unless the state changes its position by March 15, United Cerebral Palsy Association will turn over all its programs for the mentally retarded to the state. This is a UCP building on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center.

Education might have to pick up the burden.

Schonhorn says the state's offer to increase reimbursement for the Nina Eaton program is misleading because the state wants \$64 a day per patient returned to cover rental costs for use of the psychiatric center.

"Well, I checked, and I found I can put these residents in the Plaza Hotel for what the state is charging," Schonhorn said. "They're off the wall."

Meanwhile, angry Civil Service Employees Association representatives blasted Schonhorn for suggesting that the agency's 700 patients would face "true deprivation" if they return to state-run facilities.

"I don't think Schonhorn knows what he is taking about," said

John Jackson, president of the Staten Island Developmental Center Chapter of the Civil Service Employees Association.

"We think state workers can do a better job than UCP," Jackson said. "We'd love for UCP to shut down and return the patients to the state."

Many of UCP's patients were cared for by the state at Staten Island Developmental Center before 1977.

UCP employees, meanwhile, said they were shocked at the announcement that the agency might disband its programs.

"We knew there were financial difficulties, but we never imagined this would happen — at least now," said one employee who asked to remain anonymous.

administrators," he said.

Unless the state changes its position by Tuesday, Schonhorn said UCP will give 90-day notice that it plans to disband virtually all programs for the retarded and return its 700 patients to state care.

Henrik Dullea, a top Cuomo aide, denied that the state is shortchanging UCP. He said the state has already agreed to increase the Medicaid rate for the 50-bed Nina Eaton Center run by the agency at South Beach Psychiatric Center. Dullea also said the state had agreed to accelerate payments due the private agency.

If UCP proceeds to cancel its educational programs, state officials say that the city's Board of

# 20 UCP teachers to be laid off

By BRUCE ALPERT  
Advance Albany Bureau

ALBANY — United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Associations of New York State yesterday announced that it would lay off half its teaching staff tomorrow and withhold pay checks from top administrators.

The action, part of an escalating budget battle with the Cuomo administration, will mean unemployment for about 20 teachers at the Karl D. Warner Center, Wiltonbrook. It will also re-

sharply reduced education services for the Warner center's 187 residents under age 21.

"I really have no choice," said UCP executive director Robert Schonhorn, who contends that the state is stubbornly refusing to provide the agency with an adequate Medicaid reimbursement rate.

"At this point, to make sure I can meet my payroll this week I won't even be able to pay my