

# Culture, education groups lose out again

## Accord reached on state budget

Advance Albany Bureau

**ALBANY** — Gov. Mario Cuomo and the leaders of the state Legislature reached a "general agreement" for a new state budget late yesterday.

"We have had some pleasant announcements over the last 76 or 77 days, and we have another one," said Cuomo as he announced the agreement at a news conference with the leaders.

But Staten Island cultural and educational groups will receive no funding in the budget. An effort by Sen. John J. Marchi, R-Ward Hill, to add funding for the local groups failed.

The agreement provides New York City with \$241 million from a partial state assumption of lo-

cal Medicaid costs and a \$70 million increase in education aid — about \$40 million less than proposed by Cuomo.

Democrat Cuomo said the budget would add "about \$100 million" to the \$31.52 billion spending plan he presented to the Legislature on Feb. 1.

"I would call that a pittance," said the governor.

Cuomo also said that under the new plan, state worker layoffs might be reduced to "under 3,500." The governor had called for more than 7,000 layoffs as part of his plan to reduce the state work force by 14,000 jobs.

State mental health officials said the agreement should save the jobs of up to 40 of the 71 South

Beach Psychiatric Center workers slated to be laid off on April 7. "Direct care workers will be the first to have their jobs retained," said one agency official.

The reduced number of layoffs is due in large part to an insistence by the Democratic leaders of the Legislature — Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink of Brooklyn and Senate Minority Leader Manfred Ohrenstein of Manhattan — that Cuomo restore almost \$300 million he had proposed cutting from state spending.

Cuomo admitted, however, that the money was largely restored by his agreement to cut some of the programs he had wanted to fund. He refused to give details of those cuts.

The restorations insisted on by Fink and Ohrenstein will include more money for localities. There will be sewer and highway aid money coming and there will also be about \$75 million in special aid to localities outside New York City.

Gerald McLaughlin, spokesman for Marchi, said that none of the legislative leaders were able to add funding for educational and cultural groups in their hometowns because of the "tightness" of the budget.

McLaughlin said Marchi, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee, is hopeful that an upswing in the economy will generate additional tax revenue to enable the groups to win fund-

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