

State agencies have hire hopes

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

Albany (News Bureau)—Citing an early retirement program that exceeded the estimates of state officials, Gov. Cuomo yesterday authorized state agencies battered by worker layoffs earlier this year to begin limited rehiring.

The rehiring will occur in agencies where layoffs made to balance the 1983-84 budget created "serious inconvenience to the public or a serious threat to the health of patients," said Deputy Budget Director Peter Lynch. The agencies include the departments of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Motor Vehicles and Taxation and Finance.

Cuomo's secretary, Michael Del Giudice, said the rehiring is possible because 6,200 workers took advantage of the early retirement programs—nearly 50% more than budget planners

had anticipated.

The state is planning to fill 1,400 vacant positions, lowering from 10,500 to 9,100 the total work force reduction for the year. In some cases, new employees reportedly will be hired.

Cuomo originally proposed slashing the ranks of state workers by 14,000 as part of his 1983-84 budget.

CUOMO AIDES reported that, as of July 1, the budget showed a \$126 million cash surplus. But they insisted the surplus would disappear as the fiscal year progresses and that the budget remains tightly balanced.

"Although the performance of the economy over the first three months of our fiscal year has met our expectations, the state remains without reserves to cushion the effect of possible adverse federal actions or surges in the social services caseload which may result from continued structural effects of the recession," Cuomo said.