

weeks ago. More recently, said Keith Penman, director of the Warner center, 38 tires were found slashed yesterday on UCP-owned vans parked at the Warner center, which is located on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center.

But that charge was denied by Lucivero. "I don't believe that's the truth," he said. "I don't believe that statistic."

Penman also said that there have been about a dozen incidents of UCP employees reporting that the car tires have been cut.

Of 300 UCP patients who live in supervised apartments scattered throughout the five boroughs, most have been able to maintain their regular schedules during the strike. About half traditionally use vans operated by other agencies, transportation that is unaffected by the strike; the others, who normally rely on UCP drivers, are now using mass transit.

But in the past few days, said UCP assistant executive director Mrs. Hoffman, strikers have attempted to interfere with trans-

portation of the community clients through threats and harassment. Among the reported incidents:

● At one Manhattan location Thursday, an "ambulette" driver ready to load wheelchair patients into her vehicle was told by strikers that if the patients were put in the van, they would be removed by the strikers.

"This was all said in front of the kids, and they became very frightened," said Mrs. Hoffman. "The kids were taken back into the apartment, and the staff didn't even try to get them out this morning (Friday)."

● A van, owned by another agency contracted to transport UCP patients in upper Manhattan, had its tires slashed. "This was not a case of strike-breaking," said Mrs. Hoffman. "This particular carrier has been serving those children for years."

● Strikers carrying baseball bats were said to be patrolling outside Ruppert Towers in Manhattan, where UCP supervises three apartments, and at a UCP facility in Brooklyn.

● Outside a UCP apartment at 82nd Street in Manhattan, a cab driver was told if he transported UCP patients, his cab would be

torn apart. ● A UCP staff member who has been transporting one Manhattan patient on mass transit was told "not to do that anymore," said Mrs. Hoffman, with the implication of trouble if the practice continued.

● Scattered harassing phone calls to UCP apartments, with threats to the direct care staff about taking the patients out on mass transit.

"We are still attempting to get kids out to their programs when we can, but about 50 of our clients were directly affected by problems on Thursday," said Mrs. Hoffman.

"Right now, there's a sense of anxiety," said Mrs. Hoffman. "Certainly our position has been that discretion is the better part of valor, as to protect the kids. We've given out the instructions that there will be no confrontations by staff. We're trying to keep it as calm as possible."

But that hasn't been easy, she said. "Of course, there's fear among the direct care staff. Who wants to face a baseball bat?"

"Well, as far as I know, I don't see any problems," said Lucivero.

Page 2



Police stand by while a private van carrying United Cerebral Palsy clients pulls away from the Fountains, Syunnsyde, under the watchful eyes of striking UCP employees.