

NEW TEAM PLAYERS AT GOV'S HALFTIME

GOV. Cuomo will soon announce a "halftime break" in the highest circles of government, declaring that after nearly two years in office things can be changed for the better.

"We're going to get ready for the second half, and we're going to do it right away," says Cuomo, noting that the break almost certainly will lead to some important staff changes.

"I would expect that you don't go two years without changes in staff. I would expect there'll be some changes," says the governor.

The "break" mainly will consist of a series of self-critical skull sessions, during which Cuomo will ask top aides to own up and admit where they went wrong.

"We'll go to the blackboard and consider how well we did," noted the governor.

Cuomo says he's not actually going to fire anybody, but he says that it's not difficult for unwanted staffers to get the hint.

"These things tend to happen naturally," says the governor.

By the way, Cuomo says he's taken care to develop "second teams" of first-rate staffers,



INSIDE ALBANY

By Fredric Dicker



MICHAEL DELGIUDICE
Might leave Albany.



THOMAS COUGHLIN
Rumors are flying.

who are prepared to step in when major openings occur.

Among his favorites are Mark Gordon, an aide to state Operations Director Henrik Dullea, First Deputy Counsel Elizabeth Moore, and health expert Ilene Margolin.

Meanwhile, high level departures from the Cuomo administration always are rumored at the Capitol, and here is an up-to-date list of the best around.

● Michael DelGiudice, Cuomo's secretary, is thought to be consid-

and something of a legend for his ability to keep the state's severely overcrowded prisons peaceful ever since he was appointed by Carey five years ago.

● Health Commissioner Dr. David Axelrod — people around here nearly always think that Axelrod, perhaps the most highly regarded cabinet member, is on verge of becoming a medical school president.

● Insurance Commissioner James Corcoran — rumored to be headed back into the insurance industry.

★★★
CUOMO'S decisive rejection last week of Urban Development Corp. boss William "Wild Bill" Stern's strong arm tactics over the New York City Convention Center has won the governor quite a few points with the state bureaucracy.

"This is the first time we've had to see how the governor would handle a renegade commissioner," said one top state official.

"The response to what the governor did with Stern has been incredibly positive because it showed the governor could act firmly.

"His whole team was energized by it."

ering a return to the private sector. He was formerly a VP at Shearson/American Express.

DelGiudice denies any immediate departure plans.

● Michael Finnerty, Cuomo's tough, but low-profile, budget director, who served for a short time as secretary to former Gov. Carey.

Finnerty is thought to be increasingly tempted by the fat paychecks available from Wall Street.

● Thomas Coughlin, Cuomo's prison boss,