

from Staten Islanders that mostly involved education, appeals for the handicapped and even personal problems.

Cuomo told George Bonaragleo, leader of a Civil Service Employees Union local at the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) in Willowbrook, that he does not believe "the best thing we can do with this land is turn it over for commercial exploitation." Studies are underway and due back soon.

That acreage came up many times during the long evening. One of the final speakers, Ellen O'Flaherty Pratt who leads the Protectors of the Pine Oak Woods — suing the state over its cutting into woodland for housing for the retarded — stated, "It's an awful snarl between competing interests."

"I ask everyone involved to please talk to each other and see if there is not some way urgent interests of the mentally retarded and (the Greenbelt are resolved) so no one loses," she said.

Cuomo indicated he would look into the situation more personally.

Tyrone Daniels, also an SIDC union leader, complained that he received no response to a paper submitted months ago to administration officials outlining alternatives to Cuomo's stated intention of phasing out the facility.

No less than four times at the forum, as he has in news conferences in the past week, Cuomo criticized tax and spending policies of President Reagan, twice zeroing in on a U.S. Treasury Department proposal that would end local and state writeoffs from federal taxes.

"We're different from the federal government which has a money machine and spent \$210 billion more than they made," he said in a line very familiar to those who follow his public speeches.

Cuomo generally was received warmly. Representing Councilman Jerome X. O'Donovan, John Russell said "I hope you become president in 1988."

"I just want to be a judge like (Island appellate justice) Vito Titone," Cuomo said.

When another speaker suggested the same, he said "Some people will say anything just to get some money."

Still other speakers expressed personal plights. Sophie Levinson said she made a mistake by retiring early from state cutting state program and sought to go back to work. Cuomo assigned an aide to try to help.

Wheelchair-bound John Brennan, 40, of Old Town, disabled by a neurological disorder, delivered an explicit budget appeal on behalf of the Center for Independent Living in Seaview Hospital, where he works as a peer counselor to help others with similar conditions learn how to control their own lives.

Edith Reid appealed for funding to keep mental institutions from turning away patients, relating what she insisted was a true narrative of family members afflicted with schizophrenia who were dangerous to themselves and others.

Education was a key topic, perhaps drawing the greatest number of comments ranging from computers to adolescent pregnancy education programs, textbook aid and tuition tax breaks. Representatives of parents associations from private and public schools; Jacques Pessah of the Community School Board and several others appealed for more state aid.

Cuomo said there were laws restricting help for the city, such as those which guarantee at least the same level of aid as the previous year to all school districts, even those in wealthier areas upstate with declining school populations.

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