

—State/City news—

Cuomo to state his case for tax cuts, environment

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ALBANY — Gov. Mario M. Cuomo goes today before the Legislature for an address already known to include a bid for tax cuts and more money to protect the environment.

In his third annual State of the State message, Cuomo, who last year became a focus of national attention, is urging legislators to adopt a \$1.2 billion tax-cut program.

In the address, scheduled for 1 p.m. in the Assembly chamber, he is also prepared to call for a comprehensive, \$3.5 billion program to house 80,000 New York residents.

His economic forecast of a significant budget surplus for the fiscal year ending March 31 will mark a full turn from his 1982 speech that brought gloomier statements about a recession which he said showed no signs of abating.

Fiscal austerity was one theme that year, including layoffs of state workers and service reductions. Last year's legislative session brought no change in taxes or fees, though the Senate moved for a tax cut plan more massive than Cuomo's.

Gerald McLaughlin, spokesman for Senate Finance Committee Chairman John J. Marchi, R-Staten Island, yesterday called Cuomo's request on taxes "a step in the right direction" and the timing "even more

precipitous than last year."

Cuomo and aides rehearsed well into the night yesterday for the annual address, locking themselves into the Assembly chamber at the Capitol for several hours.

His housing proposal would give higher preference to those with lower incomes vying for cheap state home mortgages. Aides said his environmental proposal would increase from two to five the number of air pollution monitoring stations operated on Staten Island.

Both areas were the subject of calculated leaks by administration aides this week.

Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, R-Binghamton, last night blasted Cuomo's 1984 performance.

"The governor was preoccupied by national political affairs and he did not do all his homework" and failed to predict a strong economy, Anderson told guests at a dinner for Senate Republicans.

Anderson termed it "sad" that taxes were not cut already. "Now they (Democrats) want to join us. Good. They can read election returns as well as the rest of us."

Anderson was referring to word that Cuomo was proposing a \$1.2 billion tax cut program including some aspects the Senate moved for last year.

The city's lobbying team arrived yesterday to hear the ad-

dress and begin their annual effort for more funds.

Demands include more state aid for the homeless and for its own mandated Medicaid and welfare programs.

By the city's count, the city will account for \$8.5 billion, or 46.4 percent, of the state's tax collections in the current fiscal year.

"Of the \$2.2 billion increase in state tax collections over fiscal 1984, the city will have contributed \$1.1 billion, or 50 percent," the lobbyists said in a pamphlet being distributed here.

According to chief legislative representative Claudia Wagner, the Koch administration will also seek several measures that failed before.

One is a bid by the mayor to gain tighter control of the city Board of Education through a system involving a screening panel to pick board members, similar to the way judges are picked, she said.

Further, the city wants legislation that would limit how much citizens could win in lawsuits against municipal government. Lawsuits resulting in tort judgments against the city amount to \$120 million per year, Ms. Wagner said.

This year, the city will have another opportunity to make education funding formulas more favorable to urban school districts, which, lawmakers from the city note, did improve