

said.

Boncoraglio said he did not know the specifics of the party or the details surrounding the charges of patient abuse.

He said under the procedures of the state investigation and the union contract, the 10 employees charged with patient abuse were immediately suspended.

Once the state investigation was completed, the formal charges against the 10 employees, as well as the other lesser charges, were sent to the union.

Boncoraglio said all the charges will be appealed within the next 14 days. He said under the union contract, the union has a right to bring each case to arbitration to see if the charges will stick or be dropped. He said, however, that not all of the cases will necessarily be brought to arbitration.

Boncoraglio said the union will conduct its own investigation, and if it appears the state has sufficient evidence against the employee, the union will recommend that the employee resign rather than go to arbitration.

"I'm sure there will be people losing their jobs, and if the state produces the evidence, they should lose their jobs," Boncoraglio said.

But the union president said from what he has learned so far, the undercover investigator apparently witnessed some instances of patient abuse early in the investigation. Nevertheless, the investigation apparently continued for some time even after these initial cases of abuse were observed, Boncoraglio said.

"What bothers me is that if they had an undercover person

who viewed the patient abuse, then the alleged abuse was apparently allowed to continue so they wouldn't blow the undercover investigation," Boncoraglio said.

As a result, the union president said he has doubts about the state's evidence and the methods of its investigation.

Meanwhile, the anonymous employee said he felt his fellow employees were being "railroaded without evidence."

The charges brought against the employees are not the first

patient-abuse or drug-related charges brought against SIDC employees. In May 1983, 13 employees were charged with selling drugs. In July 1984, another employee was charged with raping a retarded resident of the institution. In October 1981, an aide at the center was charged with beating a severely retarded patient. In October 1978, a therapy aide was charged with assaulting a patient. And in March 1978, 25 workers were fired because of poor attendance records.