

# Disabled workers forced on furlough by cut in aid

## Agency spreads impact on 20

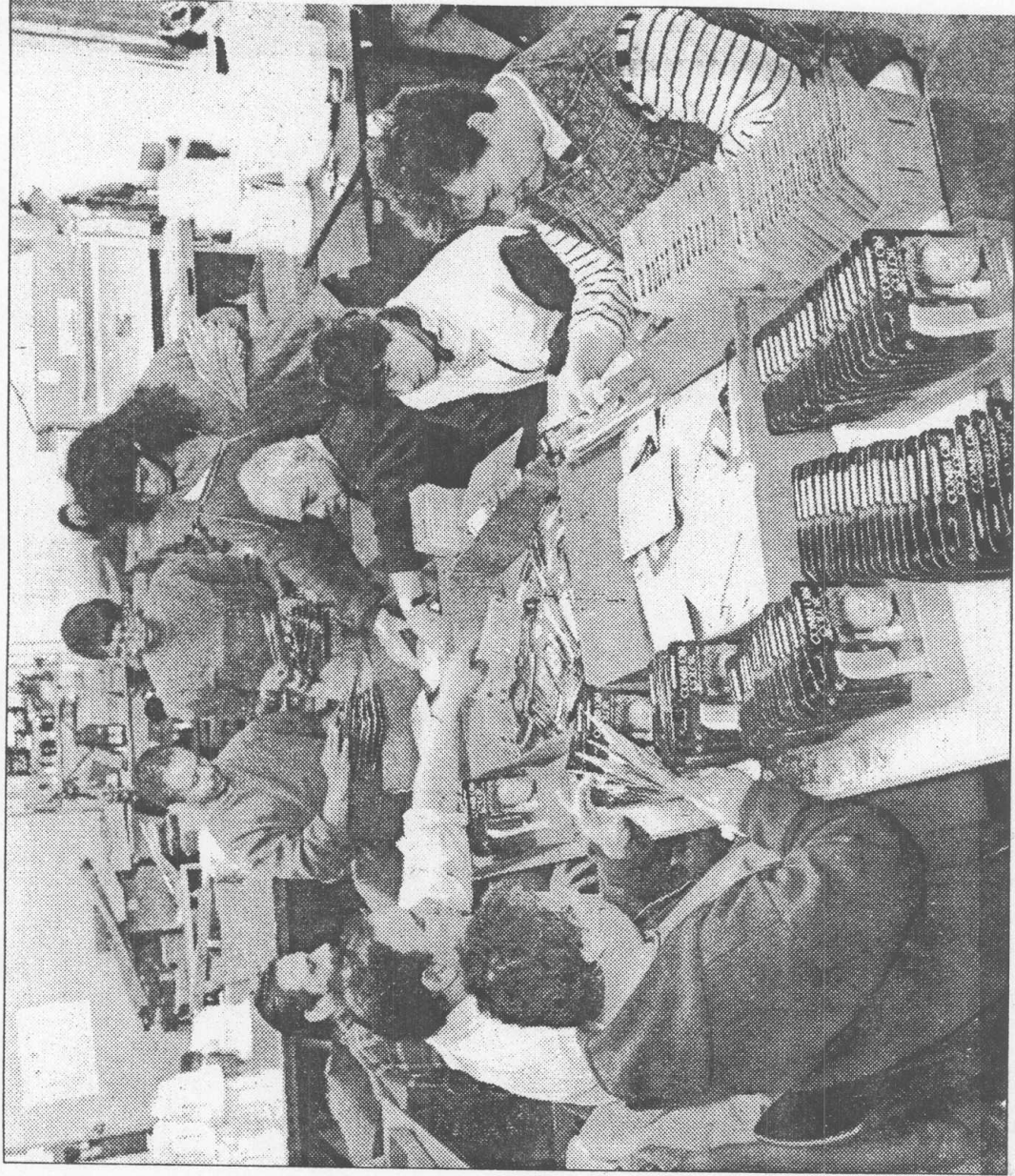
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An Island agency has decided to furlough clients in a sheltered workshop program for developmentally disabled adults since the state is no longer funding their participation.

Community Resources for the Developmentally Disabled executive director Harry Friedland said if weeklong furloughs aren't used, 20 developmentally disabled people will be left "out in the cold" with no program at all to attend.

By suspending participation in the workshop for one week, one client at a time, Friedland said the agency is able to allow them to attend the rest of the year rather than asking all 20 to leave the program entirely.

The state suspended \$2,500 annual payments to the agency, formerly known as Staten Island Aid, for 20 workshop participants. The funding change was made after the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities decided these individuals are capable of taking part in programs for people with higher functional abilities, such as competitive employment, Friedland explained.



ADVANCE PHOTOS/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Clients of Community Resources for the Developmentally Disabled participate in a workshop at the group's facility in Tompkinsville.